

Chemist & Druggist

Benn »

MAY 31 1975

THE NEWSWEEKLY FOR PHARMACY

3 things every chemist should know before stocking depilatory creams

1. New Veeto Skin-Smoother is a major breakthrough in hair removers.

New Veeto Skin-Smoother in push-button cans is here. It's easier and neater to apply (it's not a messy spray) and the new formula works quicker and more efficiently than any ordinary aerosol. And, because of the unique accelerator ingredient contained in the whole range of Veeto products, Veeto is kinder to a woman's legs, underarms and face than any other depilatory product. (That's why we call Veeto the Skin-Smoother).

2. New Veeto has an exciting new fragrance.

No more acrid smell. Consumer tests have proven that Veeto's new apple blossom fragrance is more effective in masking "action-odour" than any other depilatory cream.

3. New Veeto is going to be a fast seller.

The Skin-Smoother is just what a lot of your customers have been waiting for. Now it's here. New Veeto in cream, lotion, and push-button cans. Get some onto your shelves fast. And watch for the colourful, eye-catching ads in all the important women's magazines across the country.



Stock New VEETO Skin-Smoother.
It's everything a girl always wanted a hair remover to be.

Asthma and hay fever research

President loses seat on council

Statutory fees rise forecast

Now, Body Mist builds on its success...



...by
giving
**25%
more!**

Added value packs on
6oz and 8oz aerosols.
Strong TV support.
Stock up and sell out!

**BEECHAM
TOILETRIES**

BEECHAM PROPRIETARIES, BRENTFORD, MIDDLESEX.

-sell through faster

Chemist & Druggist

The newsworthy for pharmacy

31 May 1975 Vol. 203 No. 4966

116th year of publication

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0532 452841

Scottish: 74 Drymen Road,
Bearsden, Glasgow
041 942 2315

North West: 491 Chester Road,
Old Trafford, Manchester
M16 9HF 061 872 5151
West Country and South Wales:
10 Badminton Road, Downend,
Bristol BS16 6BQ 0272 564827

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Comment

Democracy

The Pharmaceutical Society is probably acting in its most democratic manner during the annual general meeting and the branch representatives meeting. Regrettably, because of the numbers involved and geography the total participation of the membership is prevented and it is but an academic exercise to guess what would result if it could be achieved.

However last week's AGM (p733) was an occasion when the Council was thoroughly rebuffed on two counts—that of branch boundaries and pre-election canvassing. The present Council might consider the canvassing restraint to be one which they had inherited, but it is a restraint that they have supported and imposed "voluntarily". It is a constraint that *C&D* has consistently criticised.

It is appropriate to refer to the Report of the Committee of Inquiry into the Regulation of the Medical Profession (The Morrison Report) in which it is stated "All electorates are more sophisticated than they are given credit for."

Much more recently we criticised the new branch boundaries being imposed from No 17 (*C&D*, March 29, p407) and that criticism was reinforced at the AGM by Dr Boreham and others who gave examples from their experience of the apparent insensitivity of the Council.

There was nobody to defend the Council or explain its action. Could it be that on reflection Council members realised that what had been thought to be "just a routine matter of organisation" was in fact a matter involving "persons". Something must be done. As Mr Stevens said, it was "a clear view of the membership which must be taken account of."

The next day however the Council was ready to do battle—four of its members indicated they wished to speak during the debate on the Council's motion to uphold the ban on "chemist" and "pharmacy" in advertising (p736). Surprisingly, the meeting gave them leave to speak, and this was after one representative had complained that free discussion was not possible once the Council had made its own position known.

The *representatives* meeting was surely just that. The time taken up by the speeches of Council members, who had previously made their collective views very clear, would surely have allowed a little more time at the end of the meeting. As it was, nine motions were not discussed by the representatives and that can hardly be considered satisfactory by those who spent time in the preparing and sponsoring of the motions.

Our best selling Ostermilk



now has a serious rival.

Low-solute milks are now the growth sector in the baby milk market.

Ostermilk Complete Formula, our new low-solute milk, is already the fastest growing baby milk-food in the country.

New formula.

Babies on this new milk-food are more contented, fewer suffer from severe wind and they are much less likely to get nappy rash.

Now in many hospitals.

The number of hospitals using the ready-prepared version of our new milk - Ostermilk Ready-to-Feed milk-food for babies - goes up every month. So more and more mothers will be asking for Ostermilk Complete Formula when they come out of hospital.

Big promotion.

The new Ostermilk has already been welcomed by the medical profession. And it is being widely advertised to mothers. So make sure you have it in stock.

Can be recommended for all babies.

Ostermilk Complete Formula is suitable for all babies from their first feed - right through the first year. So you can recommend it to everyone with complete confidence.

Ostermilk
Complete Formula for
contented babies.
 from Glaxo-Farley Foods.

Statutory fees are to go up next year

The Pharmaceutical Society's statutory fees will have to go up next year, warned the treasurer, Mr Harry Steinman, at the Society's annual meeting last week.

He mentioned no specific figures but said that a "substantial increase" would be needed, "and if inflation continues in the future at the present rate, I can see no alternative but to increase fees each year in order to maintain the purchasing power of our fee income."

Council would soon be considering how much the fees must be increased and Mr Steinman assured the meeting that expenditure would be carefully scrutinised to see what economies could be made before deciding on a figure. Any increase in members' fees had to be approved by the Privy Council and the premises' fees approved by the Department of Health.

The Society's General Fund surplus was £101,090—the fourth year in succession that there had been a surplus. Finances had been helped by advertising income from the Society's journal, sales of publications, income from short-term investments and an effective control of expenditure. These factors had enabled Council to keep fees unchanged for five years of the steepest inflation the country had ever known, Mr Steinman said.

Coloured capsules can be registered as trade marks

The distinctive colours of sustained released capsules produced by Smith Kline and French Laboratories Ltd, can be registered as trade marks, the House of Lords held last week. The decision came at the end of the company's four-year fight to establish that the colour of a product can fall within the meaning of the word "mark".

Their application for registration was opposed by Sterling-Winthrop Group Ltd, who argued that the mere external appearance of the goods was incapable of being a registrable trade mark.

Lord Diplock said: "No-one has been able to point to any business purpose that would be served by drawing a distinction between marks that cover the whole and those which cover part of the surface".

The assistant registrar of Trade Marks found in favour of Sterling-Winthrop in 1971. His decision was reversed by a High Court judge in 1973, but restored by the Court of Appeal (*C&D*, May 18, 1974, p603).

Lord Diplock said it was not disputed that SK&F colour combinations as applied to the capsules and the contained pellets were adopted to distinguish SK&F goods from those of other manufacturers, and they had served that purpose for years.

"The colour combinations have thus

been shown to serve the business purpose of a trade mark. They do precisely what a trade mark is meant to do—they indicate to potential buyers that the goods were made by SK&F and not by any other manufacturer.

"To the ordinary businessman it would, I think, appear a strange anomaly in the law of trade marks if these colour combinations were disentitled to the protection conferred by registration."

Lord Simon of Glaisdale, Lord Cross of Chelsea, Lord Kilbrandon and Lord Salmon agreed in allowing SK&F's appeal.

Leaflet on how to complain about faulty goods

The Office of Fair Trading has produced a new free leaflet and poster to explain to consumers what action to take on buying faulty goods.

The leaflet, "How to put things right," explains what is meant by "satisfactory" goods and how to claim compensation if things go wrong. It is produced jointly with the British Standards Institution and replaces a similar publication by the BSI.

The poster, "Shopping problems?", advertises the leaflet and provides space for details of where consumers can obtain the leaflet and advice on other consumer problems. The leaflet and poster have been supplied to trading standards officers of local authorities and the leaflets are available at consumer advice centres and citizens advice bureaux.

More VAT instructions

VAT News No. 6, the May issue of HM Customs and Excise quarterly publication, is largely taken up with changes affecting the construction industry, following the April Budget. However there is a paragraph concerning payments received by

pharmaceutical chemists for NHS rota service and rural dispensing.

This states: "Rota service payments and rural dispensing payments made by the National Health Service to chemists for their professional services are exempt from VAT when they are received by a pharmaceutical chemist operating as an individual, or in partnership, or when he is employed by a limited company."

Any pharmaceutical chemists (or companies) who receive either of these payments will be partly exempt for VAT purposes, but they can deduct input tax as if they were fully taxable, provided that the value of their exempt output is less than £100 a month on average or less than 5 per cent of their total outputs."

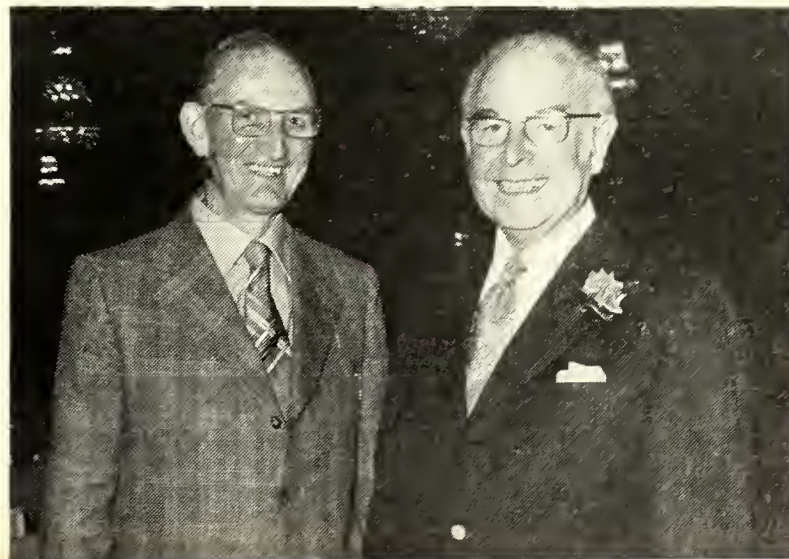
Drug Tariff amendments

The latest quarterly list of revised prices and amendments to the Drug Tariff includes the recently-announced new rates of remuneration for chemists.

Other changes include: Actidil 2.5mg tablets, Broxil 125mg tablets and Hexopal 200mg tablets deleted from the Part IV list of commonly used pack sizes; vitamin B₁ 50mg tablets transferred from Part VA to Part VD (preparations available only as proprietary products); oleic acid, caffeine nitrate, creosote, pepsin, glycerin, potassium iodide with soap liniment, compound methyl salicylate ointment, sodium sulphate, soft soap, bismuth and ammonium citrate solution, dienestrol 0.1mg tablets, and ferrous phosphate quinine and strychnine tablets (formula B) all deleted from Part VA; oily calamine lotion added to Part VA; and strong cetrimide solution 40 per cent deleted from Part VB. Notice is given of the deletion of cotton and elastic net bandage 12.5cm x 7cm stretched, from the Part VI approved list of appliances and an amendment to additional specification 24C for standard elastic net hosiery, both to take effect July 1.

C&D printing, delivery

An industrial dispute in the printing industry may cause some items to appear out of their customary position in the issue; delivery may also be delayed. Advertisers and contributors are asked to treat latest copy times as advanced by 24-hours until the dispute is settled.



Mr William Wright Hudson (left) and Mr Allen Aldington were presented with the Charter Silver and Charter Gold Medals respectively at the Society's annual meeting

President not re-elected to Society's Council

Four of the seven successful candidates in this year's Council election of the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain will be serving the Council for the first time. In fact three of them were successful at their first attempt. They were Mr N. Baumber, Grantham, Lincs; Mrs Joyce Gilbert, Leicester; and Mr G. Walker, Spalding, Lincs. The other newcomer is Mr W. H. Howarth, Nottingham.

Three retiring Council members including the president, Mr C. C. B. Stevens, were defeated. The other two were Mrs F. Lucas Smith and Mr K. W. Youings both of whom have served one term of three years. Mr Stevens has served the Council without interruption since 1966. One retiring member of Council, Mr Allen Aldington, did not seek election.

The voting figures were:

ELECTED	
A. H. Beckett	6,591
J. C. Bloomfield	5,183
N. Baumber	4,424
J. M. Gilbert	4,313
W. H. Howarth	4,249
G. W. Walker	4,088
A. Howells	3,999
NOT-ELECTED	
C. C. B. Stevens	3,948
T. E. Whaley	3,937
A. Roxburgh	3,528
J. G. Roberts	3,474
E. Lucas-Smith	3,323
K. W. Youings	3,153
T. E. Owen	3,146
C. D. Ross	2,607
C. H. P. Robinson	2,314

Voting papers issued numbered 30,311, of which 11,773 were returned; 58 papers were declared invalid.

Scotland: revised terms for oxygen equipment

Revised terms for supply of oxygen equipment in Scotland have now been agreed with effect from May 1:

Basic Price

(i) For sets and stands authorised by the Health Board: (per month)

Lightweight single unit set £0.57

Stand for use with cylinders £0.14

Professional Fees

(i) Lightweight single unit with two masks and stand £6.50

(ii) Oxygen—per cylinder £0.72

Urgent Fees

Marked "urgent" by prescriber: Delivered, £2.10 (closing time—midnight), £4.20 (midnight—8 am)

Endorsed "urgent" by chemist when supplied after midnight and delivered, £4.20

Marked "urgent": not delivered, £1.40 (closing time—midnight), £2.80 (midnight—8 am).

The four new members of the Pharmaceutical Society's Council, who gained their places in the election. Mr N. Baumber (top left) and Mrs J. M. Gilbert (top right), Mr W. H. Howarth (bottom left) and Mr G. Walker



Counterbalance offer turned down by NPU

The National Pharmaceutical Union's Executive Committee decided to turn down Counterbalance Ltd's offer of "fullest co-operation" last week—the same week as the Central NHS (Chemist Contractors) Committee declined the invitation to join Counterbalance's board (C&D, last week, p710).

Following its meeting, the Executive issued a statement that the NPU was always prepared to co-operate with any person or organisation where it appeared to the Executive that such co-operation would further the interests of members. However, it was generally satisfied that NPU members in England and Wales were well served by way of consultation and advice by the Central Contractors Committee and through the area contractor committees. "The Executive Committee do not feel that any useful purpose could be served by direct contact between the NPU and the board of Counterbalance Ltd," it added.

The meeting also considered a number of reports about local crime prevention officers requesting storage of controlled drugs and barbiturates in specially coded bottles, the coding being by way of invisible lacquer. It seemed that pharmacists would have to transfer drugs from original batch-numbered containers. The Executive was unhappy at the situation and is to seek urgent talks with the authorities.

Public's idea of 'chemist': 'medical items dominant'

A survey conducted for the Pharmaceutical Society has shown that most people associate the term "chemist" with professional services.

The survey, undertaken by the social research unit of NOP Market Research Ltd, involved 1,992 personal interviews in 100 parliamentary constituencies early last month. The interviewees were asked two questions: "What is the first thing that comes into your mind when you hear a shop described as a 'chemists,'" (together with a follow up "anything else?") and "What makes a chemist shop different from any other type of shop".

The report states that the composite picture of spontaneous reactions to the word "chemist" indicated that medical items were dominant—47 per cent of respondents associated chemist with medicine or drugs, and a further 20 per cent mentioned prescriptions, dispensing, pharmacy or pharmacists. Such items as toiletries and make-up were more likely to be mentioned as "second thoughts" the report adds. The distinguishing characteristics of a chemist's shop were seen as being the sale of medicines or drugs 55 per cent, the making up of prescriptions 41 per cent, the presence of a qualified pharmacist or chemist 13 per cent.

Sir Eric Scowen to chair licence review committee

Professor Sir Eric Scowen is to be the first chairman of the Committee on the Review of Medicines to be set up in connection with the review of product licences, Dr David Owen, Minister of State, Department of Health said in a written Commons answer last week. An Order would be made shortly to set up the Committee, and it was hoped it would have its first meeting later this year. Sir Eric is to continue as chairman of the Committee on Safety of Medicines for the time being, and Professor G. M. Wilson, Regius professor of the Practice of medicine, University of Glasgow, is to join the Committee as chairman designate.

Whitley Council adjourns

The staff side's pay claim for hospital pharmacists (C&D last week, p693) was presented to the the Pharmaceutical Whitley Council last week. The management side took note of the case, and the meeting adjourned until June 25.

April register losses

A net total of 31 pharmacies were lost to the Pharmaceutical Society's register last month when 48 premises closed down and 17 newly registered. Six of the closures were in London, 35 in the rest of England, four in Scotland and three in Wales. Of the new registrations, three were in London, ten in the rest of England, three in Scotland and one in Wales. The total number of pharmacies on the register at the end of April was 11,355.

Figures 'show what really is happening'

A further breakdown of chemist contractors' remuneration is being issued to members this week by Counterbalance. It is based on actual figures from four pharmacies covering the spectrum of contractor size.

The table (right) compares the January 1975 figure with December '74, '73, '72, and '71, section A in each table being actual figures relating to dispensing and section B figures adjusted to what would have been received had the same volume of prescriptions been dispensed each month, subject to a slight variation on discount deducted.

It must be noted that: (a) In May 1972 there was an 0.5 per cent increase in on-cost. (b) In August 1972 there was a 2p increase in dispensing fee. (c) The actual December back payment is shown at the bottom of each table.

It is stressed by Counterbalance that the table is not statistical evidence but a picture of what is actually happening in four pharmacies.

1. Excluding the actual January 1975 figures, the figures in table B are inflated because they have been adjusted up to the January 1975 dispensing figures.

2. In each category it can be seen that had the same number of prescriptions been dispensed they would have received the same dispensing fees from August 1972 until January 1975.

3. The net ingredient cost column in table B shows how dramatically costs have risen since December 1972.

4. The only increase contractors have had since August 1972 has been from the "on-cost less discount" accruing from the increase in net ingredient cost and in fact are below the "B" figure quoted for the reason explained in 1, together with what would have been received from dispensing any increase in prescription numbers.

5. In each category the December 1974 back payment was not even sufficient to cover the increase in capital investment on the net ingredient cost.

Counterbalance concludes that for over one-third of the total of chemist contractors—those 4,000 dispensing below 1,500 prescriptions a month (table 1)—in the 12 months December 1972-73 they will have received a *maximum* increase of £10 a month, or less than £3 a week. For the 12 months December 1973-74 they will have received a *maximum* of £30 a month or £7 a week—in fact far less because the "on-cost less discount" has only gradually increased in the year.

Another one-third of all contractors—that is those in table 2 dispensing between 1,500 and 2,333—in the two years December 1972-74, will have received

only a little more than the first 4,000 because the "discount deducted" has come into operation to their detriment. This is reflected in column B in table 1 and 2 of the "on-cost less discount"—the small difference in figures between tables 1 and 2, should be noted yet category 2 dispensed nearly twice the number of prescriptions.

In table 3, accounting for some 2,000 contractors, the picture is not much better and when comparing table 4—accounting for some 50 contractors—with the other tables it can be seen that the discount deducted has really taken effect.

"The figures quoted in the four examples do provide a valuable indication as to how NHS remuneration has fallen behind over the past two years".

On use of the restrictions of the Price Code in the argument, Counterbalance quotes Mr Brining, consultant accountant to the Central Committee: "Although costs had increased across the board, on NHS work and counter business, chemists were simply not being allowed to receive these costs." But there is now no statutory bar to reimbursement and the organisation awaits "what action the Central Committee proposes to take to recover the costs incurred prior to January 1974. Note the lump payment in December 1974 was supposed to be in respect of costs incurred during 1974 that had not been already paid by the normal remuneration system and which should have helped ease the cash-flow problem faced by pharmacies."

Part A					Part B				
Table 1: A pharmacy dispensing below 1,500 scripts a month.									
	Scripts	Net ingred cost	On cost less disc	Fees		Scripts	Net ingred cost	On cost less disc	Fees
Dec 71	1,245	859	82	183		1,466	1,011	96	221
Dec 72	1,087	883	91	185		1,466	1,191	123	250
Dec 73	1,245	1,134	113	212		1,466	1,335	133	250
Dec 74	1,118	1,164	124	189		1,466	1,553	163	248
Jan 75	1,466	1,577	166	307					

Actual back payment £308

Table 2: An "average" pharmacy dispensing 28,000 scripts a year.									
	Scripts	Net ingred cost	On cost less disc	Fees		Scripts	Net ingred cost	On cost less disc	Fees
Dec 71	2,481	1,233	87	370		2,655	1,319	93	396
Dec 72	2,322	1,270	100	390		2,655	1,452	114	446
Dec 73	2,208	1,470	119	372		2,655	1,768	143	447
Dec 74	2,672	2,046	170	445		2,655	2,033	169	452
Jan 75	2,655	2,245	186	546					

Actual back payment £572

Table 3: A pharmacy dispensing 42,000 scripts a year.									
	Scripts	Net ingred cost	On cost less disc	Fees		Scripts	Net ingred cost	On cost less disc	Fees
Dec 71	2,695	1,564	108	404		3,733	2,167	150	560
Dec 72	2,599	1,607	121	446		3,733	2,308	174	641
Dec 73	3,157	2,110	121	534		3,733	2,495	185	631
Dec 74	3,449	2,916	236	588		3,733	3,155	255	636
Jan 75	3,733	3,224	257	783					

Actual back payment £689

Table 4: A large pharmacy dispensing 100,000 scripts a year.									
	Scripts	Net ingred cost	On cost less disc	Fees		Scripts	Net ingred cost	On cost less disc	Fees
Dec 71	7,540	4,098	267	1,104		9,481	5,153	336	1,388
Dec 72	7,826	4,728	331	1,304		9,481	5,728	401	1,580
Dec 73	8,583	5,805	407	1,430		9,481	6,412	450	1,580
Dec 74	8,807	7,237	514	1,469		9,481	7,791	553	1,581
Jan 75	9,481	7,856	550	1,948					

Actual back payment £2,119

Advertisement

COUNTERBALANCE LTD

A substantial and vigorous body of chemist contractors seen to be behind the Central NHS (Chemist Contractors) Committee is needed to help them secure a sound financial future for our profession.

OUR STRENGTH LIES IN YOUR SUPPORT

Please leave blank

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

COUNTERBALANCE LTD., ASSOCIATION OF CHEMIST CONTRACTORS
12 Upper Marlborough Road, St. Albans, Herts.

Contractor's Business Title

Address (Principal Place of Business)

Classification: Rural
(Please tick)

Community
Suburban

High Street
Town Centre

Willingness to Participate in Appropriate Survey

Yes ☐

No ☐

I enclose £5.00 ☐ membership fee and first year subscription
£5.55 ☐ charge for copy of Memorandum and Articles, membership fee and first year subscription

Name of Contractor/Representative

Signature Date

News in brief

□ The Department of Health has recently issued a consultative letter on a proposal that chemical spermicides should be sold with a compulsory warning to the effect that they are not an effective means of contraception when used by themselves.

□ The Department of Health has published a new set of tar and nicotine tables for leading brands of cigarettes. The tables, which feature a new health warning "Danger: cigarettes cause lung cancer, bronchitis, heart disease," are again to be distributed to pharmacies.

□ The British Standards Institution, 2 Park Street, London W1A 2BS, has proposed the following draft common names for pesticides: ctriadiazole; fentricol, halacrinat (acriquinat was previously proposed, but was ultimately unacceptable); metetilachlor; methafluoridamid.

□ The EEC Commission has recently published guidelines for a Community programme for safety, hygiene, and health protection at work. The guidelines are designed to set the objectives to be pursued in the safety and health area and to indicate the specific actions needed to attain better working conditions.

□ The British Pharmacopoeia Commission, 8 Bulstrode Street, London W1M 5FT, have issued a fourth supplement to the Approved Names 1973 booklet. Some 31 new names, together with three amendments to the booklet and six amendments to the third supplement, are given in the list which comes into force on June 1.

□ Canada is to convert to 100-unit insulin preparations, and a large government education programme is to alert the public to the change. As a result, Canadian manufacturers are producing little if any 40- and 80-unit strengths, and diabetic visitors to the country this summer could experience difficulties in obtaining supplies of the previous strengths.

□ Borrow Dental Milk Foundation, Padnell Grange, Cowplain, Portsmouth, last week sponsored a symposium on "Selective fluoridation" during the WHO assembly in Geneva. The foundation, a non profit-making charity, is campaigning for fluoridated milk, Dentamilk, to be available to schoolchildren as an alternative to fluoridated water supplies.

□ The Medicines (Termination of Transitional Exemptions) (No 3) Order 1975, published recently (HM Stationery Office, SI No 761, £0.11), appoints June 1, 1975, as the day for formally ending the transitional exemption under subsections (2) to (5) of section 16 of the Medicines Act in relation to wholesale dealing in medicinal products for human use. The Medicines (Exemptions from Licences) (Wholesale Dealing in Confectionery) Order 1975 (HM Stationery Office, SI No 762, £0.11), also published recently and coming into effect on June 1, 1975, exempts wholesalers from the need to hold a licence for dealing in medicinal products for sale as confectionery provided certain conditions are met.

Topical reflections

BY XRAYSER

Answers

In my younger days, there was a weekly paper called *Answers*. I do not know if it is still published, but the questions it set out to answer were trivial compared with the massive examination paper on VAT which Mr T. P. Astill tackles in such masterly fashion. I well believe that in open competitive examination in which the candidates were drawn from the staffs of the departments concerned with the tax, Mr Astill would top the list and carry off the gold medal.

His exposition of the complexities of the whole sorry scheme brings before the eye a vivid picture of the experts, in at the beginning of it all, finding themselves in a quandary with telescopes, caravans, fan heaters, time switches and hedge trimmers, to quote at random from the items mentioned by Mr Astill (p704). And one can imagine those wrestling with the problems feeling, with the poet: "Oh what a tangled web we weave, when first we practise to conceive."

If ever there was a case for "lobbying" VAT would seem to have provided the perfect conditions, but how many of our legislators at Westminster could have been expected to appreciate all that was involved? The mere fact that no fewer than nine schemes have been found to be necessary damns it from the start. One has only to look at Mr Astill's exposition in the most casual manner—and, of course that is not the way to look at it—to be confronted yet again with the genius stroke of 2/27.

My sympathy goes out to the small business in which, perforce, the duty of making the returns devolves on the owner, who watches the tide of official paper rising around him until he is finally sunk without trace. Only the large business with specialised staff can hope to cope with it. I would not for a moment have Mr Astill feel that I am unappreciative of his patient explanation, but I think he would admit that, even when compressed into the most concise terms, a scheme that requires six columns of elucidation should not have seen the light of day.

One almost has sympathy with the officials entrusted with the administration. And to think that earlier this century, there were no bad habits like purchase tax, VAT, insurance stamps, PAYE, Controlled Drugs registers, barbiturates and computerised, unreadable invoices. What a backward people we must have been sixty years ago!

□ In a recent "Unused drugs collection" in Brighton and Hove, 188,168 tablets and capsules, 35.1 litres of liquid and 7,141g solid preparations were collected.

□ Serum cholesterol levels in healthy volunteers fell when they took 36g daily of pectin or guar gum over two-week periods, but not when they took wheat fibre, according to a report in *The Lancet* recently.

□ An anticipated 500 companies will be represented at the seventh International Gifts Fair to take place at Earls Court, London, on August 17-21. Details from Trade Promotional Services Ltd, Exhibition House, 6 Warren Lane, Woolwich, London SE18 6BW.

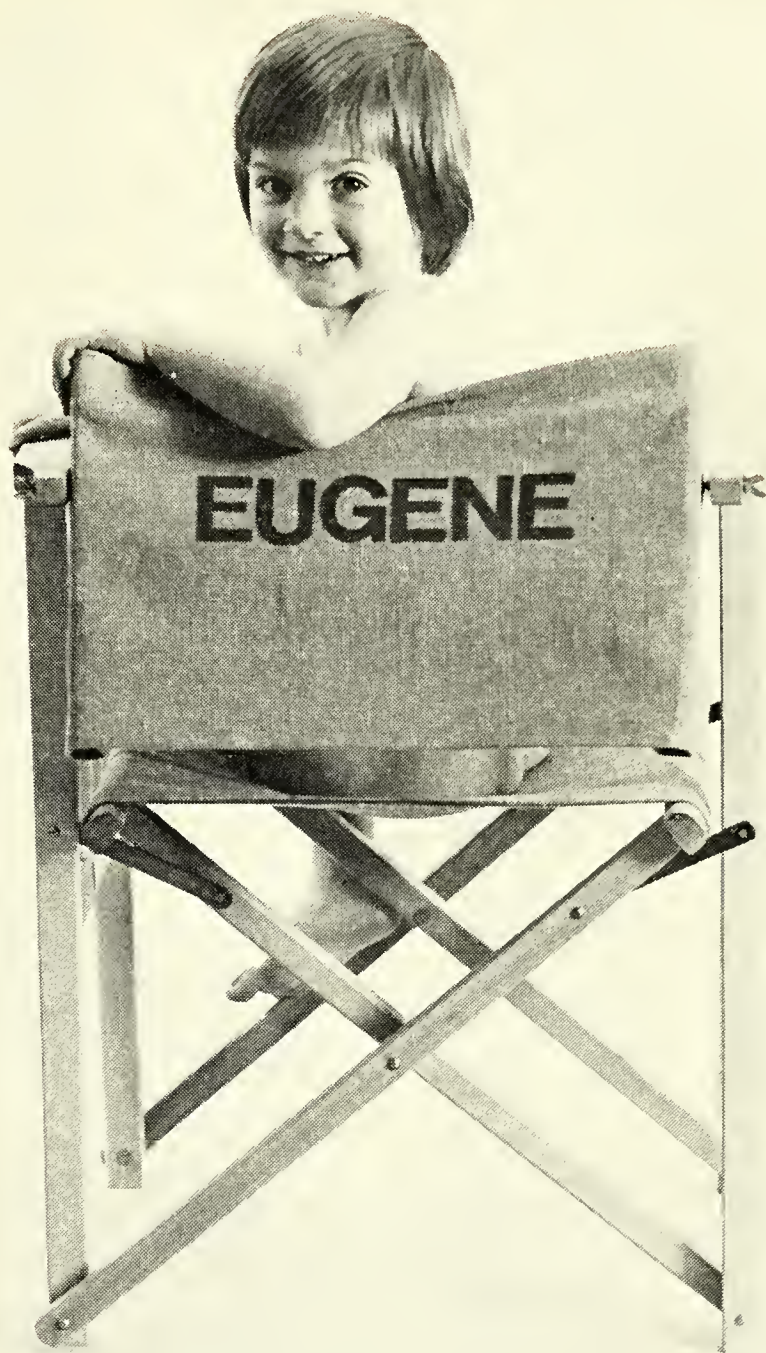
□ The Distributive Industry Training Board expects to pay out bonus grants totalling some £3m. to firms which achieved high training standards during the year 1973/74. The Board has fixed the value of a single bonus point at 6 per cent of the levy of the firm earning it.

Films

Childrens Harvest

Charles Barker Films (for Ribena). On free loan from Audience Planners (UK) Ltd, 12 Charlotte Mews, London W1P 1LN. 16mm or 35mm, colour, sound, running time 20 minutes.

Although of general interest, the film has some educational value for pharmaceutical audiences. It is presented in a cheerful and attractive manner capturing the atmosphere of the Wye Valley and countryside where the sponsor's product is made. The history of blackcurrant is traced from ancient Greece, and the experiments of research worker, Dr V. L. S. Charley, are relived in his search for "home produced" and stable vitamin C. The film shows how a whole years supply of blackcurrant juice has to be processed in a few weeks when the vitamin content is highest.



In 30 secs, Eugene increased Matey sales by 600%.

At the age of four, Eugene became a crack salesman. Simply by starring in a 30-second TV Commercial for Matey Bubble Bath.

The commercial was shown only on Southern. But backed by ads in magazines and comics, it sent sales of Matey soaring by an amazing 600%.

What it did in the South, it can do across the country.

And will.

During June and July, this same, successful commercial will be seen on TV sets all over Britain – showing millions of mothers the advantages of Matey.

For fast, certain profits, all you have to do is stock up with Matey now.

And leave the rest to Eugene.



Matey. Just good clear profits.

Matey is a Registered Trade Mark.



People

Mr George Raine, BSc, FPS, area pharmaceutical officer for Merton, Sutton and Wandsworth, retired on May 30. Qualifying from Leeds in 1935 Mr Raine began his career in retail, moving to a Royal Naval hospital during the 1939-45 war. Since then he has been in hospital service being appointed chief pharmacist to St George's Hospital, Hyde Park Corner, in 1956. That position he held until the NHS reorganisation when he became area pharmaceutical officer.

An active committee member of the Harrow Branch of the Pharmaceutical Society for many years he served as secretary, vice-chairman and chairman.

To a wider circle of pharmacists he will be known for the work he did in various offices for the Guild of Public Pharmacists, later the Guild of Hospital Pharmacists.

At a party at St George's Hospital on May 22, Professor Dornhorst (professor of medicine at the hospital) presented Mr Raine with a cheque. He also received a cheque from the Harrow Branch committee at the party. Mr Raine is now residing in Poole, Dorset.

Deaths

O'Connor: Writing on the death of Mr C. S. O'Connor, lecturer in pharmacognosy at the College of Pharmacy, Dublin, a report of which appeared last week (p696) the dean of the college, *Professor R. F. Timoney*, comments: Throughout his professional life Christy O'Connor enthusiastically advocated the establishment of an organisation for the growing of medicinal plants in this country, because of the suitability of the climate and soil, particularly reclaimed peatland, for many medicinal plant crops including belladonna, hyoscyamus, digitalis, coriander and peppermint. His efforts to encourage and promote the development of pharmaceutical farming were based on the results of model experiments, some of which he conducted within the department of pharmacognosy, and others in which he was associated with a specialist team from the Institute for Industrial Research and Standards, Antigen Ltd, Roscrea and *Comharchumann Forbartha Chorca Dhuibhne Teo.*, respectively.

He had a wealth of experience in the utilisation of modern equipment for drying medicinal plants and in the application of instrumental methods for the isolation and characterisation of the active constituents of many natural products. One of his last functions in this area of his activities was to negotiate a grant for a pilot scale research project on the cultivation of selected medicinal plants in Ballyferriter, co Kerry.

In recent years, he devoted much time to the problems arising from the misuse

of drugs. During a visit to the United States in 1971, he received permission to study the problems of drug abuse and the efforts to overcome them in Washington.

In all his activities, Christy O'Connor was a kindly man, who enjoyed the company of his academic colleagues, professional associates and students. Many will remember him for his acts of kindness, and many more will benefit from the work he did. His fortitude and cheerfulness in the last few months, despite failing health, were an example to those who were in daily contact with him.

His was a life which reached a fulfilment. By his death, pharmacognosy has lost an enthusiastic and courageous champion, the College of Pharmacy a devoted servant who remained unshaken in times of difficulty and rejoiced in the successes of its students, and the profession of pharmacy a dedicated member, who constantly cared and worked for the furtherance of its role in the health service of our people. *Ar dheis De go raibh a anam uasal.*

Prescription specialities

LOPRESOR tablets

Manufacturer Geigy Pharmaceuticals, Hurdsfield Industrial Estate, Macclesfield

Description Metoprolol tartrate. Pale red, slightly bi-convex, film-coated tablet with slightly bevelled edges, 9mm diameter, engraved "Geigy" one side, scored other, containing 50mg. Light blue, slightly bi-convex, film-coated tablet with slightly bevelled edges, 10mm diameter, engraved "Geigy" one side, scored other, 100mg

Indications Hypertension, angina pectoris
Contraindications Atrioventricular block, digitalis-refractory heart failure, severe bradycardia, cardiogenic shock

Dosage *Hypertension:* Initially 100mg morning and evening then 100-200mg twice daily depending on response. *Angina pectoris:* 50-100mg 2 or 3 times daily

Precautions Has proved safe in large number of asthmatics; although a selective beta-blocker, care needed in chronic obstructive pulmonary disease. Dose of adrenergic bronchodilators may need adjustment. Should not be given to patients with cardiac decompensation unless concomitantly treated with digitalis and/or diuretics. Dose of hypoglycaemic agent in labile and insulin-dependent diabetes may need adjusting. Metoprolol therapy should be brought to attention of anaesthetist prior to general anaesthesia. Use in pregnancy only if compelling reasons

Side effects Slight gastro-intestinal discomfort and disturbance of sleep pattern. In most cases effects transient or have disappeared after reduction in dosage

Storage Protect from heat, light and moisture

Packs 100 tablets: 100mg (£6.50, trade) and 50mg (£3.50)

Supply restrictions Recommended on prescription only Issued May 1975

Trade News

Filon: ordering and despatch

In order to achieve greater security with the controlled drug Filon (phenbutrazate-phenmetrazine combination), Berk Pharmaceuticals Ltd, Station Road, Shalford, Guildford, Surrey GU4 8HE, say that all deliveries of the preparation will be made by registered post. Customers are asked to co-operate by ordering Filon separately. The product will no longer qualify for discount on direct orders.

Strychnine removed from Metatone

In the light of current medical opinion regarding lack of therapeutic effect of strychnine, Parkc, Davis & Co, Usk Road, Pontypool, Gwent NP4 8YH, have removed strychnine from Metatone tonic. From June 1 all orders for Metatone will be supplied with the strychnine-free formulation (250ml, £0.25; 500ml, £0.40; 2.25l, £1.60 trade). Until stocks of the "old" formula are exhausted, pharmacists will be able to meet prescriptions for Metatone with either formulation unless the prescription is endorsed "strychnine-free" by the doctor. The company will not accept returns of the old formulation for credit.

Anadin advertising

An advertising campaign for Anadin tablets begins this month with a new 30-second television commercial, a Press campaign and a new series of four 15-second radio commercials. The television commercial uses an animated glass head to illustrate the cause of headaches and is planned for a nine week period.

The Press campaign will run continuously over the three month period. The advertisement explains the cause of headaches and why Anadin is so effective for fast relief. In addition, nine different advertisements will be seen in women's and teenage magazines and describe the benefits of Anadin for relief from period pains. The radio advertising will be heard on Capitol, London Broadcasting, Clyde, Swansea and Forth.

Autumn race sponsorship

Following the success of the previous race meeting sponsored by Wella Great Britain Ltd, Wella Road, Basingstoke, Hants, BBC Grandstand are to televise a third BARC Thruxton meeting on November 15. The four-race programme will feature Formula Atlantic, special saloon cars, Formula Ford and modified sports cars.

Nobecutane price correction

Astra Chemicals Ltd, King George's Avenue, Watford WD1 7QR, say that the trade prices of the temporary packs of Nobecutane will now be 80g, £0.83 and 320g, £1.49, not as preciously stated (C&D, May 17, p674).

Philips summer advertising

Colour advertisements featuring their hair care products are currently running in women's magazines and a further campaign is planned by Phillips Electrical Ltd, Century House, Shaftesbury Avenue, London WC2, for the autumn. Full-page colour advertisements featuring sun lamps are to appear in the *Observer*, *Sunday Times* and *Daily Telegraph* magazines, *Radio Times* and *Punch*, throughout June, and advertisements for their electric toothbrushes are currently appearing in *My Weekly*, *Woman's Realm*, *TV Times*, *Titbits*, *People's Friend* and *Radio Times*.

Help for damaged skin

Nivea Toiletries Ltd, Hook Rise South, Surbiton, Surrey, have launched a £1m advertising campaign for Nivea creme and liquid featuring a 30-second commercial which will be on all regions for 11 weeks during the peak buying season. The television message will be reinforced by a Press campaign in women's magazines starting in June and running through to November. The theme of the campaign will be to point out the damaging effect that everyday life has on skin and shows the moisturising properties of Nivea creme and liquid.

Kodak 'weekend' contest

"The British weekend" is the theme of a nationwide colour photography competition being sponsored this summer by Kodak Ltd, PO box 66, Station Road, Hemel Hempstead, Herts, in association with the *Daily Telegraph* magazine and British Airways. The competition is open to professional and amateur photographers permanently resident in the UK and details, including the rules and entry form, were in the *Daily Telegraph* magazine on May 23. First prize will be £1,000 in cash, plus a luxury flight for two by British Airways jet to Thailand and a holiday in Bangkok.

The competition closes on September 15 and it is hoped it will become an annual event.

Cosmetic base

Alembic Products Ltd, Oaklands House, Oaklands Drive, Sale, Manchester M33 1WS, now recommend Alembicol D, medium chain triglyceride BPC 1968, for use as a light non-greasy non-sticky base for creams, salves and suntan oils. Its low viscosity, colour and low surface tension make it suitable for oleo cosmetics, particularly lipsticks and bath oils. Alembicol D was developed as a dietary product and is used medically as a suspension medium for oral and intravenous antibiotics. Technical bulletin 10/1/1 outlines its characteristics.

Two Carter-Wallace displays

Carter-Wallace Ltd, Wear Bay Road, Folkestone, Kent, have produced new display units for two of their products—Pearl Drops and Nair.

The Pearl Drop counter unit contains both variants and the two sizes—42g, 78g. The makers are backing the product with advertising in women's magazines using full-page colour advertisements, throughout the year.

The Nair display holds the cream tube, cream sachet, lotion tube and lotion sachet and co-incides with the start of the sum-

Mrs Margaret Norman receives her voucher for a two-week holiday for two in Jamaica first-prize in the first of 5 monthly sunglass competitions, from left, Mr D. Firmin, Polaroid field sales manager. Mr T. Buckley is the chemist who supplied Mrs Norman with the Polaroid sunglass that enabled her to enter the competition. He receives 12 bottles of Cham-pagne.



mer advertising campaign for the product. Full and half-page advertisements will appear in women's magazines throughout the summer, and Nair aerosol is currently being supported on Capital Radio.

Egg test on television

Sally Hansen Ltd, Hook Rise South, Surbiton, Surrey, are currently advertising Hard as Nails with Nylon on television featuring the egg test they used last year and which they say trebled their market share. The test demonstrates the protection given by the product to something as fragile as an eggshell. The campaign will run in London and the South until the middle of June and then will be featured on Midlands, Lancashire, Trident and Scotland regions until the first week in July.

Mail-lite postal bag

Mail-lite, an ultra lightweight protective postal bag claimed to be up to seven ounces lighter than similar padded bags, has been introduced by Sealed Air International Corporation, Telford Way, Kettering, Northants. The kraft paper bag is lined with $\frac{1}{16}$ inch of Aircap cushioning, a polyethylene laminate which entraps hundreds of bubbles of air within the barrier coated film. Available in 10 sizes, it can be heat sealed, is moisture-proof and can be re-used. A list of distributors and prices is available from the manufacturers.

Military theme

The advertising campaign for the RS65 battery shaver by Ronson Products, Randalls Road, Leatherhead, Surrey, has a "military flavour", this summer. The campaign features actor Windsor Davies, who has played the part of a sergeant in many films and television programmes, and will appear in the *Daily Express*, *Daily Mail*, *Daily Telegraph* magazine and *Radio Times*.

Apocaire June promotions

Apocaire promotions for June are as follows: Amami setting lotion, Band Aid clear plastic and washproof plasters, Brut 33 antiperspirant spray, deodorant spray and splash-on lotion, Cool antiperspirant dry powder, Dry Look men's hair spray, Elnett hair spray, Foamy shave cream, Johnsons baby oil, Kotex feminine towels, Palmolive soap, Sunsilk shampoo and

Wella Colour Confidence. Details from Sangers Ltd, Cinema House, 225 Oxford Street, London W1R 1AE.

Unichem June offers

Unichem Ltd, Crown House, Morden, Surrey, are promoting the following products in June: Anadin; Ayds; Bisodol tablets; Brut 33 shampoo; Dextrosol glucose tablets; Harmony hair spray; Johnson & Johnson baby powder and shampoo; Kotex Simplicity; Alberto VO5 PH shampoo; Macleans toothpaste; Jordan toothbrushes.

Diet booklet with Energen

A new "Good shape guide" with details of the Energen four-week diet is now available free from Energen Foods Co, Ashford, Kent, in return for a coupon from any Energen packet. The new version has almost twice as many pages as its predecessor and offers general hints and recipes for slimmers.

Varicrepe bandages available again

Varicrepe bandages, withdrawn early in 1974, are available once more from Cuxson, Gerrard & Co Ltd, 26 Fountain Lane, Oldbury, Warley, West Midlands (trade price per dozen: 5.0cm, £1.47; 7.5 cm, £2.20; 10cm, £2.85; 15cm, £4.12).

On-pack Babettes offer

The "biggest-ever" on-pack offer on Babettes disposable nappies by Bowater-Scott Corporation Ltd, Bowater House, 68 Knightsbridge, London SW1, begins in June. The promotion takes the form of an 8p coupon redeemable against the consumer's next purchase and inserted in Babettes 20's packs.

Four towels extra

For a six week promotional campaign all Kotex Simplicity economy packs will contain 24 towels in place of the normal 20. The extra free product represents say Kimberly-Clark Ltd, Larkfield, Maidstone, Kent, a saving of over 10p over the cost of a regular economy pack.

Money-off Ibcol

Jeyes UK Ltd, Brunel Way, Thetford, Norfolk, are currently running a money-off promotion on Ibcol disinfectant. The promotion gives 1½p off the 12-oz and 2½p off the 20-oz sizes.

Trade news

Continued from p727

Tote bag Co-op offer

Hessian tote bags, ideal for use on the beach or as general shopping bags, are offered to Co-op pharmacy shoppers in a current promotion in return for 55p, plus a Co-op pharmacy till receipt. Advertisements backing the offer will appear in popular national daily papers and a selection of regional papers, until June 7.

Razor promotion

Gillette Industries Ltd, Great West Road, Isleworth, Middlesex, are to feature their Techmatic razor in advertisements in *The Sun*, *Weekly News*, *Weekend*, *TV Times*, *Daily Mirror*, *Radio Times*, *Daily Express*, *Daily Record*, *Titbits* and *Belfast Telegraph* during June.

Trade shows

Jean Sorelle Ltd, 117 Great Portland Street, London W1 will be holding the following Christmas shows: Central Hotel, Glasgow, June 16-19; Hendon Hall Hotel, Hendon, June 16-19; Majestic Hotel, Harrogate, June 23-26; Midland Hotel, Birmingham, July 7-10; Metropole Hotel, Brighton, July 7-10; Piccadilly Hotel, Manchester July 14-17. A permanent showroom will be at their London office.

Fabergé Inc, Ridgeway, Iver, Bucks are holding the following trade shows: Royal Lancaster Hotel, London, June 2-6; Albany Hotel, Glasgow, June 17-19; Gosforth Park, Hotel, Newcastle, July 1-2; Midland Hotel, Birmingham, July 8-10; Portland Hotel, Manchester, July 15-17; Dragonara Hotel, Bristol, July 22-23.

on TV next week

Ln—London; M—Midland; Lc—Lancashire; Y—Yorkshire; Sc—Scotland; WW—Wales and West; So—South; NE—North-east; A—Anglia; U—Ulster; We—Westward; B—Border; G—Grampian; E—Eireann; CI—Channel Islands.

Ambre Solaire: All areas

Aquafresh: All areas

Body Mist: All areas

Close-up: All areas

Cow & Gate fruit syrups: So

Divi-Dent: So, CI

Elastoplast: All areas

Johnson's baby powder: All areas

Lady Braun hairstyling set: All areas

Mum: All areas

Oil of Ulay: All areas

Polaroid sunglasses and Colour Swinger: All areas

Sally Hansen Hard as Nails with nylon: Ln, So

Tegrin: All except G, E, CI

Undercover Throwaway pantees: Ln

Vapona: All areas

Wizard solid air freshener: So

New products

Babycare

New Heinz food range

Heinz have launched a new range of baby foods in jars. The range consists of eight strained 4½ oz (£0.10½) and eight junior 6oz (£0.12½) and are said to contain at least as much protein as cow's milk and to provide one-fifth of a baby's daily requirement. Recipes also contain added iron.

The range will be supported by advertising and "money off" coupons distributed through the consumer Press. Introductory trade deals and trade promotions are planned (H. J. Heinz Co Ltd, Hayes Park, Hayes, Middlesex).

OTC medicinals

Spray for haemorrhoids

Haemorrhoidal spray, an aerosol from International Chemical Co Ltd, is being launched nationally in pharmacies only. The spray is said to give almost immediate relief to the sufferer who has sharp and painful attacks of external piles, frequently accompanied by itching. The active ingredients are lignocaine 0.08 per cent and chlorhexidine hydrochloride 0.10 per cent.

There will be advertising in seven national newspapers and two leading provincial papers, with 61 insertions appearing during the introductory four-month period. The product is packed in a 3-oz aluminium can (£0.67) with a precision vertical spray and white plastic dust cap. The standard sales pack is a cardboard outer containing six units and is printed in blue and yellow (International Chemical Co Ltd, 11 Chenies Street, London WC1).

Cosmetics and toiletries

Inspiration from the flowers

Wild Flower soaps is the latest range from Bronnley. Taking their inspiration from the flowers, the soaps (£0.50) are wild mignonette, wild pink and wild blue anemone coloured pale green, pale pink and blue respectively. Presented individually, or in packs of three, the soaps come in boxes colour-matched to the soaps.

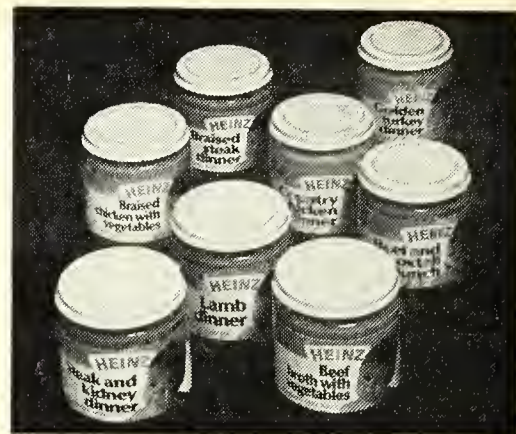
As an introductory offer Bronnley will send free to purchasers a print featuring the three wild flowers. A leaflet outlining the offer is inside each soap carton (H. Bronnley & Co Ltd, 10 Conduit Street, London W1R 0BR).

Optical

Range for contact lens wearers

A new range of products to the UK for contact lens wearers has been introduced from California by Barnes-Hind Ltd.

For hard lens wearers, there is a wetting solution (35ml, £0.51; 60ml, £0.70); Contact-care cleaning and soaking solution (120ml, £0.88), which comes complete with a



Dispos-a-kit disposable carrying case (£1.50); Gel-clean, a cleaning gel containing a non-ionic surfactant (30g, £0.70); One solution, a "three in one" solution with Dispos-a-kit for wetting, soaking and cleaning (90ml, £1.29); and Titan, a concentrated cleaner (30ml, £1.45). Comfort Drops (15ml, £0.90) is for use during wear to cushion and rewet hard lenses.

For soft lens wearers, cleaner number 4 (35ml, £0.98) is a cleaning solution and Hexidin (120ml, £0.96) a storage solution. Also available are Lyteers, artificial tears (15ml, £0.70), Degest, sterile decongestant eye drops (15ml, £0.70), a leather Dispos-a-kit case (£1.50) and a leather storage case (£1.60) for dry storage (Barnes-Hind Ltd, Holbrook Street, Swindon SN1 1BZ).

Photographic

Regula 110 models

Two new 110 camera models are being introduced by Photopia Ltd. The Regula Miniking L (£28.63) has a programmed shutter with a single ring to set exposures in the range 1/30th sec at F4.5 to 1/500th sec at F11. The 25mm F4.5 Regulon lens is coated and fully colour corrected. Other features include twin-window bright frame finder, "soft" shutter release, weather symbol exposure control, flash cube socket and hot-shoe for electronic flash. The Regula Miniking LK (£39.56), is similar to the Miniking L but in addition it incorporates an electric eye to set the exposure in the range 1/30 to 1/500th sec (Photopia Ltd, Hempstalls Lane, Newcastle, Staffs ST5 0SW).

Voigtlander camera

Rollei (UK) Ltd have recently introduced a compact 35mm electronic shutter camera, the Voigtlander VF101 (£75.65). The 4 × 2.9 × 1.4in, 16oz, camera has a 40mm, f2.8, 4 element Color-Skopar lens with extending lens hood. Focussing distance is 3ft to infinity with a coupled rangefinder. The electronic shutter, coupled to the Cds exposure meter, operates in the range 1/500th sec to 4 sec depending upon the aperture set.

Voigtlander electronic flash units include the Computer flash VC21B (£11.07), a dry battery powered unit, with a guide number of 70 with 100 ASA film and automatic control in the range 1-12½ft; VC31S (£28.30), nickel-cadmium rechargeable batteries, two working aperture options, automatic control in the ranges 16in-18½ft and 8in-9½ft, and guide number 102 with 100 ASA film. (Rollei (UK) Ltd, Denington Industrial Estate, Wellingborough, Northants).

We never thought we'd have to apologise for Slender.

We've sold out.

The wholesalers have sold out.

And now virtually every retailer has sold out.

All within a month of starting to advertise Slender on the box.

Who's to blame? We are. And we apologise.

We underestimated the demand. And we're still kicking ourselves.

We're rushing fresh supplies from America. And shipping them straight to the wholesalers.

Which might mean you won't always get the flavours you ordered.

But at least you'll have the goods when the follow-up commercials start running (even more frequently than before) in late July.

It's the slimmers we want to lose pounds. Not you.



Summer sneezes

The next two months could be misery for the three million or so hay fever sufferers in Britain. To them, the daily pollen bulletins issued by the Asthma Research Council are probably as important as the weather forecast. This contributed article describes how the bulletins are compiled and how research into hay fever and asthma is progressing at various centres in the UK and overseas.

The allergy that comes into the limelight at this time of the year is hay fever—not because of its seriousness, but more because of the public nuisance it causes. It is less complicated than some other allergies, emotional factors and infectious processes playing little or no part.

The incidence of hay fever sufferers in Britain is estimated to be in the region of 3 million—the number of men and women being about equal, with the highest occurrence among adolescents.

A complication of hay fever is that although many sufferers grow out of it as they approach middle age, others who are left untreated can progress over the years to a seasonal pollen asthma that may develop into an all-the-year round condition. By definition, the term hay fever was at one time confined to the symptoms caused by grass pollen, but today, it is applied as well to sensitivity to pollens of other flowering plants and trees, and sometimes to spores of moulds and fungi. Odours of some flowers, due to their essential oils, can also trigger off what appear to be allergic symptoms in some individuals, eg roses and lilac produce little pollen, the grains of which are too large to be blown about to any great extent, and tests have excluded pollen as a cause of the symptoms in such cases.

Symptoms

As well as exhibiting the familiar physical signs of hay fever, ie excessive sneezing, irritation of the nose and soft palate, itching and running of the eyes, sensitivity to sunlight, some sufferers also experience a serious dulling of the mental processes and an inability to concentrate.

In Britain, grass pollen is the main cause of hay fever, while in other countries, where grass is sparse, tree pollen is the main offender, as in Scandinavia where birch trees are common. North America has two pollen seasons—an early one due to grass pollen and another in the autumn due to ragweed, which fortunately is rare in Britain. Sufferers who go for a while to countries where European grasses do not grow can be free of symptoms while abroad, but can also become sensitive to local plant pollens. On returning to Britain however, their improvement may not be permanent and their earlier symptoms can recur.

Hay-fever sufferers often ask where they can remove to or spend a holiday in Britain to escape from pollen. This question is almost impossible to answer because where there's grass there's pollen.

Grass pollen is so small and light that it can be blown by the wind for long distances, from the countryside to distant towns and cities, so that the air over almost the entire country contains some pollen during the season.

As for the treatment of hay fever, numerous over-the-counter remedies have been tried over the years, but severe sufferers have found only partial relief from these. Similarly, a number of different antihistamines have been prescribed by doctors for the relief of the symptoms with varying degrees of success. Drugs currently in favour are beclomethasone dipropionate spray and other local steroids that are active on the respiratory mucosa. When symptomatic treatment fails, however, the real approach to the problem is through a course of desensitisation with extracts of the allergen concerned which nowadays can be reduced to a few injections.

Considerable progress has been made in the past few years in palynology—the science of pollen and much valuable data on the characteristics, distribution and atmospheric content of pollens has been condensed into a recent volume "Atlas of European Allergenic Pollens."

Daily pollen bulletins during the hay-fever season now hold a similar importance as the weather reports in Britain and North America. Since 1963, pollen counts and further outlook bulletins have been issued during June and July—a period corresponding to the release of grass pollen—by the Asthma Research Council for an area covering

London and the Home Counties. The bulletins have been made available to sufferers through newspapers, radio and television stations and the London weather forecast telephone service. More recently, pollen counts have become available in Cardiff, Derby and Glasgow.

The pollen count is expressed as the number of pollen grains from the grasses per cubic metre of air averaged out over a 24-hour period. When the count is high—50 or more, hay-fever sufferers experience severe symptoms, but when it is low, eg below 10, most are less troubled.

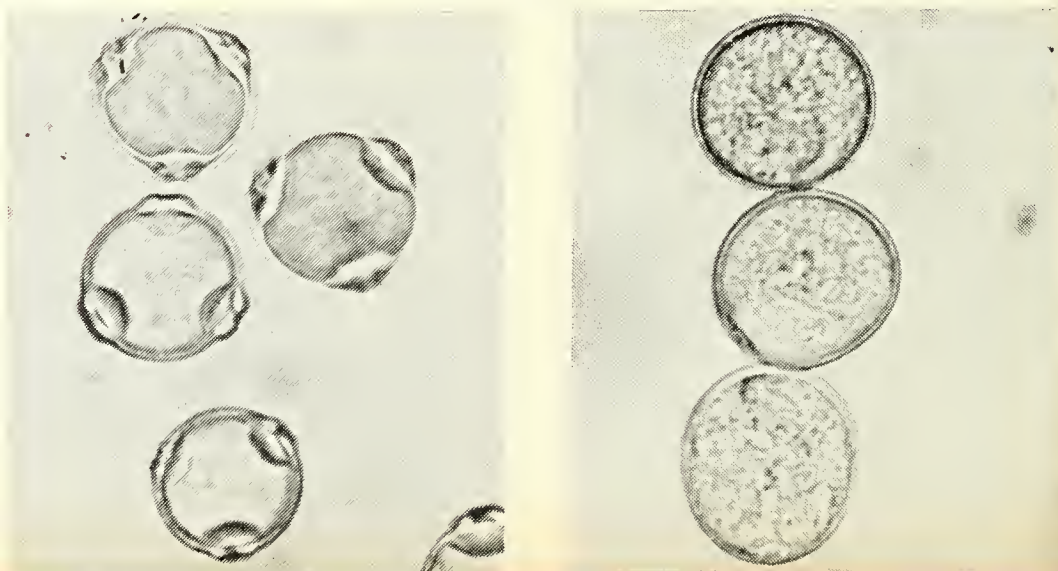
Simple gravimetric methods have been used for measuring the pollen count, but more accurate volumetric techniques are commonly adopted today, mainly by the use of the Hirst spore trap placed on the roof of a building. A large weather vane directs the instrument into the wind which passes through a narrow slit in front of a sticky microscope slide. The trap sucks in air at approximately 10,000 litres in 24 hours—the rate at which an average individual inhales. During this time, the slide moves vertically past the opening slit and pollen, dust and other airborne particles are trapped on the sticky slide. The pollen is then counted by microscopical examination of the slide.

Pollen levels in the air vary at different times of the day. They are usually low overnight and in the morning and rise rapidly during the afternoon to a peak in the evening. On warm sunny days, pollen is released from the grasses and the wind keeps it airborne, whereas rain washes it out of the air to the ground. Some hay-fever sufferers experience severe symptoms even when the pollen count is low, probably because the individual is highly sensitive to small amounts of pollen in the air, or because of a "carry over" effect from a high pollen count on preceding days, which might last in some individuals for a week or more. Considerable variations are noted in the daily and yearly pollen counts of trees, grasses and weeds, but neither tree nor weed pollens are as important allergenically as grass pollens.

Asthma research

As in other fields of medicine, progress in asthma research is often slow, unspectacular and lacking in "important breakthroughs". This is understandable for a disease which has baffled doctors

Pollen grains magnified about 400 times. Left, birch; right, grass; prevalent in spring and summer respectively



and scientists since it was recognised as a serious affliction of the lungs in the time of Hippocrates (about 460-377 BC). Volumes have been written on the nature, causes, complexities and treatment of asthma, yet today the disease still holds many mysteries and its final conquest is nowhere in sight.

A useful contribution to the knowledge of new asthma drugs has been the Asthma Research Council's symposium on the evaluation of bronchodilator drugs, the proceedings of which were published recently.² The symposium dealt with the methods now available for the scientific assessment of such compounds including basic pharmacological studies in animals; the assessment of the response in the human subject by physiological methods, principally measurement and analysis of resistance to gas flow within the lungs, studies of absorption, metabolism and excretion of drugs given by various routes, including how and where an inhaled drug is deposited and effects of metabolites.

Running test

In the discussions on procedures for assessing these drugs in man and for trying to find out by challenge tests what is precipitating asthma, it was agreed that the measurement of the forced expiratory volume in one second (FEV₁) is an adequate tool. In clinical practice, it pays to use the simplest method that will provide the information required, and the investigation of exercise-induced asthma is a good example. This requires no more than space for the patient to run—a long corridor, for instance—and a peak expiratory flow meter. Free running seems to be a more effective stimulus than the bicycle ergometer or the treadmill, though these are much more impressive and more adapted to the quantification of work.

In the symposium it was also concluded that in spite of all the work that has been done on the subject, it is still uncertain what caused the striking and tragic increase in the deaths from asthma among young people in the 1960's. After publicity had led to greater awareness of the hazards of bronchodilator-resistant asthma, the number of deaths fell; but whether this was due to prompter and more efficient management of this emergency situation, to diminished use of isoprenaline aerosols by a minority of patients who were using them excessively, or to other factors is still not certain. The careful investigation of factors that might have been concerned still leaves the cause of the "epidemic" increase in asthma deaths unexplained.

Emphasis was also given to the extreme importance of studies of the pharmacokinetics of new drugs, their absorption, metabolism and excretion, and the pharmacology of their metabolites in man.

Progress in other aspects of asthma research is also shown in the annual report of the Asthma Research Council for 1974.³ In Birmingham, a new method has been developed for assaying the tissue-sensitising antibodies in allergic patients' sera, based on the use of enzyme-tagged immunoglobulin rather than a radio-isotope label. This should reduce the cost, besides facilitating the assay by permitting the easier handling of large numbers of serum specimens, and,

it is hoped, the full automation of the procedure, which should enable it to be performed routinely in hospital laboratories.

It is accepted that the production of IgE antibodies is the essential prerequisite to the development of many allergic conditions including allergic asthma and that other factors later come into play to affect the nature and severity of such diseases. However, it is not yet known exactly why some people develop IgE type antibodies against common environmental substances and so become candidates for allergic reactions whereas most people do not. Workers in Glasgow are trying to throw light on this problem by fundamental studies of IgE production in laboratory animals. Hopefully it should be possible to draw meaningful analogies between such animal systems and man with the object of devising methods to inhibit the production of IgE antibodies for the alleviation of allergic disease.

Further studies under a Council grant at the Lister Institute, Elstree, have confirmed that two classes of antibodies may be formed by asthmatic individuals, the IgE reagin and the IgG-S-TS antibody. It appears that the latter may have an important role in persons whose asthma develops late in life and work is being done to identify the antibody so that it may be readily detected as an aid to diagnosis. Investigations at Elstree on pieces of asthmatic lung showed that lymphoid cells form IgE reagin antibodies and IgG antibodies. Furthermore, eosinophils which frequently enter asthmatic lungs, sometimes infiltrate the groups of lymphoid cells. Some of the eosinophils shed granules from their cytoplasm and it is believed that this indicates that the eosinophils are inactivating the harmful substances that induce asthmatic changes.

Role of house dust mites

The house dust mite, of which there are many species, has been found in many parts of the world. The mite is regarded as an important factor in causing asthma and it is established that the principal allergens of household dust are produced in the bodies and faeces of the mites. Large numbers of the mites are generally present in the dust of mattresses and soft furnishings where they are believed to feed on human skin flakes. Their dried bodies are ubiquitously present in environmental dust, are frequently carried on clothing and are even present on the floors of hospital wards.

Workers in Birmingham are studying the ecology of the mites, particularly conditions which favour their growth and reproduction, and the subsequent distribution of their dried bodies. Samples of mattress dust from many areas have been examined and work is in progress on the effects of temperature and humidity on the development of laboratory mite populations. A special study has also been made of the effects of ducted warm air central heating on the dissemination of mites.

Investigations by other workers are concerned with the effect of injections of mite extracts in patients whose asthma is considered to be caused or aggravated by house dust mites. Over 30 centres in Britain have offered to take part in these trials so that enough patients are available to make the study conclusive.



Courtesy of Dome Laboratories Ltd

D. pteronyssinus, a common house dust mite in Britain

Various prophylactic measures have been used in an attempt to reduce the growth of house dust mites, including vacuum cleaning of mattresses, furnishings and floors, washing down room surfaces, sealed plastic mattress sheaths and modification in the microclimate temperature and humidity of mattresses. Workers in Marseilles recently concluded that while such measures can be useful they are on the whole disappointing as they are inadequate for complete removal of the mites.⁴

These investigators have been examining a proprietary micro-fog acaricidal spray consisting of "balsamic essences with various chemical antiseptics" and its effect on mite cultures and in homes. The product is acaricidal but not ovicidal and the author states that these attempts to control the mites appear encouraging but more work is needed for definitive conclusions. Similar work on mite pesticides has been carried out in Britain during recent years, but as yet, no safe acceptable method of controlling mite population is available.

An aspect of asthma that does not seem to have reached the attention it merits is the part the public can play in the problem. According to the director of the Asthma Research Council's clinical pharmacology research unit at Brompton Hospital "further progress in the fight against asthma depends on greater public involvement in the problems concerned, ie not only what research must be done, but also a deeper appreciation of an asthmatic's needs, his fears and sensitivities, a broader knowledge of what is good or bad for him, what he should or shouldn't do, and what can be done to lighten his burden. When such participation is possible on a wide scale, real progress will be made."³

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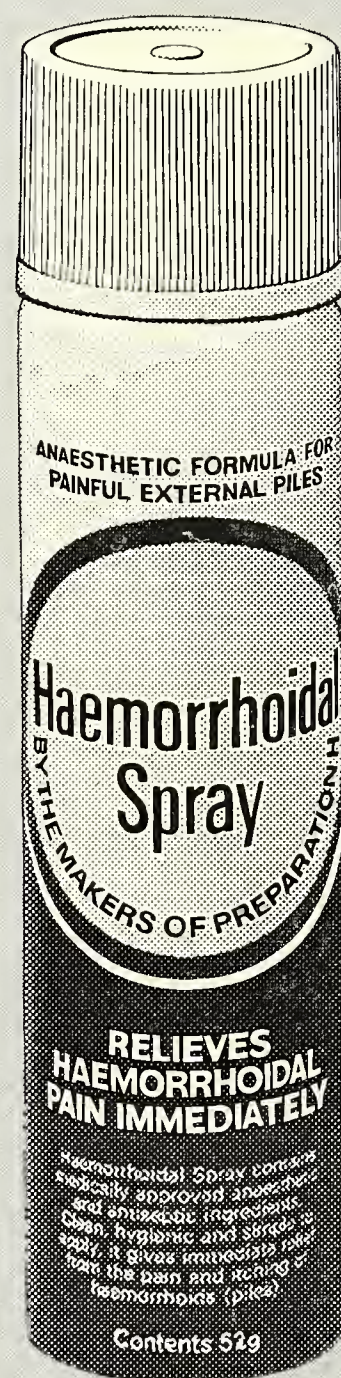
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NEW

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ointment & suppositories.**



* Trade Mark

Pharmaceutical Society annual meeting

Council rebuffed on branch boundaries

A motion calling for Council to reconsider the position of branches which would be adversely affected by boundary changes received overwhelming support.

Dr P. F. L. Boreham, Slough, proposing the motion, said that the Council's decision on branch boundaries did not take into account sufficiently the views of the Society's members. He explained how branches had been asked to consider the proposed changes but when they did so the Council had apparently rejected their suggestions. "On what basis does the Council think they know better than local members?" he asked.

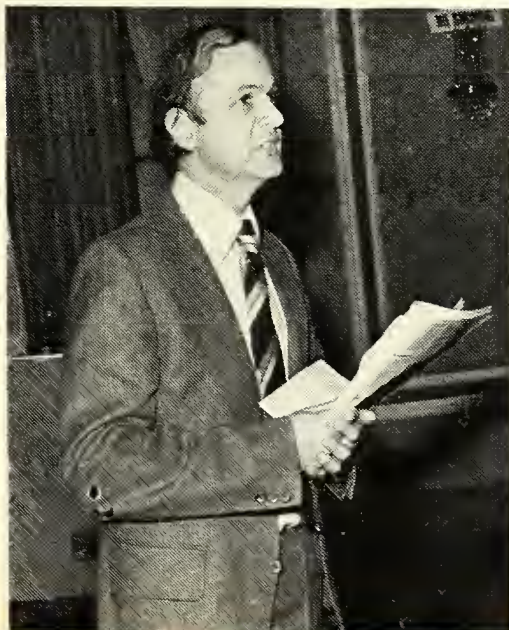
Branches fulfilled two main functions—to provide channels of communication between members and the Council, and to provide contacts at a local level with other professions—for which active, thriving organisations were needed. Some branches would be adversely affected by members having to travel vast distances to attend meetings and their active membership would inevitably decline.

Making boundaries coterminous with area health authorities would not necessarily increase contacts with other professions, Dr Boreham maintained. Doctors, dentists and opticians, where they had made any changes at all to local organisations, had recognised the need for exceptions.

Seconding, Mr Roger Odd, Oxford, asked why branches in each region should not be organised as members themselves thought best. The 12 months' grace given to London branches before changes were made should be extended to other areas, he suggested.

Mr Chris Nicholson, Slough, objected to being presented with a *fait accompli*. The changes proposed in March were to

Dr Boreham proposes his motion



come into effect in April leaving no time for counter-proposals. There had been no time to invite any new members to their branch annual meetings—in fact the Society had been unable to say who the new members were, he added.

Mr L. Priest, West Middlesex, said Council had badly hurt and offended some 15 per cent of members who had supported the Society by taking part in branch affairs. Mr Hunter, Hounslow, pointed out that areas covered by branches should be considered sensible to individual members and not be a matter of administrative convenience. The motion was carried unanimously.

Candidates' views wanted

A motion that Council should "urgently re-examine the problem incurred in canvassing by or for Council candidates in order to allow comment, at least, by the candidates on matters of topical pharmaceutical interest" was also carried.

Mr Odd, proposing, said that the present procedures, designed to give candidates equal opportunities of presenting their views to the membership, were in effect preventing members finding out about the candidates for whom they were supposed to be voting. A 300-word policy statement, biographical details and a glossy photograph did not provide enough information for members to make a decision which would affect the running of the profession for at least three years.

This year a "farfetched situation" had arisen because several candidates had launched a big campaign before the closing date for nominations, which was quite legitimate; "unofficial and underhand canvassing" had taken place on behalf of certain candidates before and after the so-called "deadline", and correspondence from and reports about candidates had been published in the pharmaceutical Press after this date.

Mr Odd urged that the Society should be more open with its electioneering: "What other elections are run by not allowing candidates in the field to communicate on various issues?" He asked for an end to the anomalies whereby first-time candidates were at a disadvantage in getting themselves known and retiring Council members standing for re-election were banned from communication with the membership for 8 per cent of their term of office.

Seconding the motion, Mr K. V. Mortimer, Oxford, said that in the 1974 election only 35 per cent of members voted and 65 per cent did not care. Apathy and lack of communication were common complaints in correspondence columns of the pharmaceutical Press. Improve the communication—allow free exchange of opinion between Council can-



Mr R. Odd—a motion on canvassing

didates prior to elections—and the unconcerned would become concerned.

Mr Stevens agreed that the time may have come for re-examination of the canvassing question. Up to 1941 it had been common practice for retiring Council members seeking re-election to circulate a common policy document to support them, a practice which gave them an unfair advantage.

Many members found the electioneering which took place at this time distasteful and refused to stand for election unless a change was made, he continued. Restraint was then introduced by "gentleman's agreement", rather than a formal byelaw, and had been agreed to since 1944.

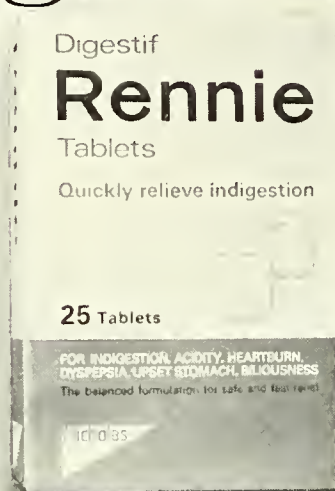
Pharmacists to have commissioned rank

The army is to proceed with the introduction of uniformed commissioned pharmacists to provide an overall supervisory organisation on a regional basis to which the Royal Air Force may refer for advice and assistance. That was announced to the Pharmaceutical Society's annual meeting by the president, Mr C. C. B. Stevens, in his annual report. Terms and conditions of service available to candidates for commissions were being considered in detail, he said. "The Society has, of course, pressed the view that the same principles should be applied in the recruitment of pharmacists to the armed forces as in the recruitment of the other main members of the health care team," Mr Stevens added. "Their specialist knowledge should be recognised and, of course, posts and salaries open to them in civilian life taken into account." The Royal Navy would continue to engage civilian pharmacists.

Special meeting

A special general meeting approved an alteration to Article 5 of the Supplemental Charter 1953 which says the Society shall not hold land and property to a yearly value over £75,000. It was agreed to remove any monetary restriction and to remove the need for a special general meeting of members to approve property sales. Exceptions to the latter would be sales of the Society's headquarters in Lambeth, sale of the Society's property in York Place, Edinburgh or Birdsgrove House convalescent home.

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Stock the brand leader.

Nicholas

Letters

Committee constitution

May I through your columns state the recommendations by the Staffordshire Area Chemist Contractors Committee regarding the Constitution of the Central NHS (Chemist Contractors) Committee? They are:

3. Membership. (a) The Committee shall consist of 17 registered pharmacists engaged in the Part IV Pharmaceutical Services. (b) (i) The constitution of the Committee shall be 17 members. One member from each region elected by contractors who are not members of the Company Chemists Association. (ii) Item deleted. (iii) Item deleted. The company/Co-op representatives unaltered.

7. Chemist contractors. This item to be suitably amended as per 3(b) above.

14. Special conference of representatives of Area Chemist Contractors Committees. The Committee shall, if requested by not less than 10 Area Chemist Contractors Committees, call a special conference of Area Chemist Contractors Committee representatives.

16. Quorum. The number of representatives who shall form a quorum of a conference of representatives of ACCC's shall be the representatives from not less than 10 ACCC's.

We would ask for these recommendations to be supported.

R. D. Tuck

Secretary, Staffordshire ACCC

Harassed shopkeepers

We were once told that England was a "nation of shopkeepers" (for the purpose of my letter this includes all the UK). What about it now?

The small businessman is harassed and penalised with heavy rates, rents etc; changes in VAT, now with three rates which many associations protested about and said would not work (but which are going to).

Why was the 10 per cent standard VAT rate reduced to 8 per cent and then varied in such a short time? I think there was no need for the reduction and the economy could not stand it. If 10 per cent had been kept as the standard rate since April 1973, there might not have been any need to bring in an additional rate of 25 per cent.

Personally, I am glad cosmetics are not changed in VAT rate, but in all fairness, they are a luxury and during the 1939-45 war they were for a time liable to 125 per cent purchase tax—a far cry from 8 per cent VAT.

We now have heavy National Health Insurance, especially for the self-employed, with very little benefit. What about the new pension scheme for employers and employees? Why was this shelved?

Now I see 8p or 10p one-class mail on the horizon. Surely with first and second-class mail going equally slowly, it was logical to use a 5½p stamp. But if a flat rate of 6p had been introduced in the first place, with no sorting needed, I think it would have gone well. Now another increase in telephone rentals!

I have enjoyed my 40 odd years in business, but the past few have brought many unnecessary changes to add to the work of chemists. We have been metricated, decimalised, EEC-ated, but not yet executed! We are unpaid tax collectors!

I would not advise anyone in the 20-30 age group to enter business on his own account, except perhaps in a big partnership with a turnover of over £200,000 per annum.

I hope the Chancellor of the Exchequer thinks about the "nation of shopkeepers" more in future budgets—but not to their detriment!

W. J. Taylor

Londonderry

'No' arguments

I was fascinated to read Mr Blum's article on why pharmacists should vote "no" to the EEC (May 17, p677). I am amazed that Mr Blum should drag into the argument, as a reason for voting "no", the apparent ingratitude of General De Gaulle to this nation which harboured him during the war. I would remind Mr Blum that General De Gaulle was seeking refuge from the Nazis, the German National Socialist Party. Mr Blum is undoubtedly a socialist (being a member of the Socialist Medical Association) and his arguments, together with those of other socialists against the EEC are undoubtedly

nationalist in outlook. If voting "yes" to the EEC will save us from the rise of British national socialism, then this argument alone must be a very compelling one.

However, it is on the question of the future of pharmacists within the EEC that I find difficulty in understanding Mr Blum's argument. On the one hand, it is claimed that membership will bring economic ruin, and falling standards to Great Britain. On the other hand we are warned that France is producing too many pharmacists, and that they will migrate to Great Britain, to the detriment of British pharmacists. Could Mr Blum explain why any French pharmacist should care to leave the prosperous country that British membership is apparently going to make France, and come to work in destitute Great Britain, which apparently is what Mr Blum believes we shall become if we stay in the EEC. One would think that the climate alone would keep all those Gallic Galens from our shores. Could Mr Blum explain why they should choose to come here and not Holland, indeed why they have not already inundated Dutch pharmacy, whose standards are probably the highest in Europe.

Whatever the arguments for and against membership of the EEC its most vociferous opponents appear to be the extreme left of the Labour Party and the communists, and the extreme right of the Conservative Party and the National Front. One cannot help feeling that any cause which unites these factions is likely to be against the interests of the middle of the road, silent majority.

I. Benjamin

Leeds

Pesticides: UK system better than EEC drafts

The House of Lords Select Committee on the European Communities has criticised draft directives on pesticides and has suggested retention of the UK's present system of voluntary control agreed between Government and manufacturers.

The Committee's report on the proposals—for fixing maximum levels of pesticides in and on fruit and vegetables, and on the classification, packaging and labelling of pesticides—is included in its 15th report published recently (HM Stationery Office, £0.22). The latter draft would require EEC countries to ensure that pesticides were not marketed unless they were: classified according to the toxicity of the commercial product to rats; packaged in a safe and secure manner; and labelled to show their toxicity classification, and details of any special risks, and/or safety precautions to be observed in use. Conversely, the countries would be required to refrain from restricting—for classification, labelling or packaging reasons—the marketing of pesticides which complied with the requirements of the subsequent directive. Alternative forms of labelling for small quantities not constituting a danger to health would be allowed, and member countries could prohibit the sale of pesticides which, although complying with the directive, constituted

an unforeseen health hazard in their opinion.

In contrast to the UK voluntary system (where pesticides for use in agriculture and food storage are not marketed unless Departments were satisfied that they can be used safely) the draft is limited, the Committee points out, in that it is confined only to provisions on classification, packaging and labelling. Thus the consequences of adoption in the UK would be limited to the introduction of new symbols indicating the relative toxicity of some of the more dangerous pesticides, and some changes in the wording used on warning labels. Existing arrangements under the Pesticides Safety Precautions Schemes would not be affected in most cases.

A broader base

While recognising that both drafts had been conceived with the objectives of improving health standards and removing unreasonable barriers to EEC trade, the Committee conclude that the latter could be better achieved by a more broadly based system of pesticide tolerances, and the former aim better secured by the continuation of the UK's voluntary system, "whose standards are higher and whose use has been largely successful."

Branch Representatives meeting

Advertising and 'chemist': ban to continue

Delegates at the Pharmaceutical Society's representatives meeting last week voted to uphold the ban on the use of "chemist" and "pharmacy" in advertising. The vote—161 for, 27 against—came after more than an hour's debate in which several members of the Society's Council also took part.

Mr J. Bannerman, the Society's vice-president, proposed, on behalf of the Council, that paragraph 6 of the Statement Upon Matters of Professional Conduct did not require amendment and that the terms "chemist" and "pharmacy" should not be used in any advertising. He said that all professions banned or restricted advertising and controlled the use of titles. The Society's Statement allowed—on shops and in the announcement of rota services—the use of titles to a greater extent than other professions. "We are different, and the extent of that difference is already recognised." The titles were "certainly not restricted to give us a commercial advantage", but to protect the public. All professions had restrictions on titles to protect the public against unqualified practitioners, and in that context Mr Bannerman suggested that pharmacy, a trading profession, should be very careful about the matter and not abuse its privileges. Opponents of the Society's present policy suggested that they could take a title like chemist and "use it exclusively in advertising associated with toiletries and the like—products which are sold by a variety of retailers. No-one would want to see the right to that title placed in jeopardy."

The main argument appeared to be that "chemist" is no more than "an innocuous term describing a set of premises and carries with it no professional overtones."

'Man in the street' surveyed

The crucial point was the effect of the title on the man in the street. Council decided the matter too important to be decided on the basis of guesswork, so they approached National Opinion Polls who undertook a survey. The survey took place in early April in 100 parliamentary constituencies, and 1,992 persons were interviewed (see p722). The reactions to those questioned about the first thing to come into their mind when they heard a shop described as "a chemists" was that medicinal items dominated. Some 78 per cent associated chemists with medicines, drugs, dispensing and pharmacists—professional aspects. "The title 'chemist' cannot be used without having this effect," Mr Bannerman added.

The profession's code of conduct was a standard which the profession observed, and only achieved its credibility through adoption by practising pharmacists. "Any

relaxation of this code must be resisted," said Mr Bannerman. The public had obvious respect for "chemist"; "it would be irresponsible to devalue that title" or to destroy that respect. The motion was formally seconded by Mr M. G. M. Madge.

Mrs Linda Stone, Gwent, felt that the question was simple—if "chemist" and "pharmacy" were used in advertising, it was a vote for pharmacists to remain as shopkeepers, whereas the profession was striving for a place in the health care team where other professions banned advertising. Mr S. Bubb, Bournemouth, commented that the situation was already in jeopardy as it was quite clear that the Society had power only over its own members and anyone outside the profession could use the title "chemist" with impunity.

Mr L. Priest, West Middlesex, an Executive member of the National Pharmaceutical Union, gave his own view that free discussion was no longer possible once the Council had made its own position known. He felt that the Society could be inviting another restraint of trade court case with the ban on "chemist". Mr J. C. N. Wilford, Hastings, an NPU Executive member also expressing his own view, sounded a similar note of caution.

Trading atmosphere

Mr R. Jackson, West Metropolitan, said that Mr Priest made a "fundamental error." The trading atmosphere of today rested solely on trust and goodwill. "The use of 'chemist' or other restricted title to bolster up nebulous goodwill is wrong." Mr W. A. Beanland, Burnley, pointed out that the word "chemist" did not refer to the pharmacist, but his business. Logically the use of the word could only relate to the sale of Part 1 poisons and the provision of dispensing services. He criticised the "scaremongering" of Mr Priest.

Mr Williams, Bristol, spoke against the motion. He felt that restricted titles had "developed" and were not "handed down", so there should be further development. He suggested that legal problems resulting in changes could be overcome.

In reply to a query from Mr A. R. G. Channings, Worthing, Mr C. C. B. Stevens, the Society's president, said that regulations under the Medicines Act concerning restricted titles had not been promulgated yet.

Dr D. H. Maddock, Council member, said that the position of closures was getting worse, and 58 per cent of Society members received less than £20,000 a year from the NHS. Advertising of chemists "will do no damage whatsoever." Mr M. Gordon, also a Council member, felt it imperative to find where the profession's

long term interest lay, rather than the short term. If pharmacy was to have a future, it had to think and act professionally. If the motion was rejected, the profession would be divided, and the title would be free to "all and sundry."

An amendment by the North Staffordshire Branch to allow the use of "chemist" in a subdued manner as a one-word description of the advertiser was defeated.

During his summing-up, Mr Bannerman disclosed that the Society had written to the Department of Health, asking them to produce regulations under the Medicines Act to ban such titles as "Chemimart" and "Pharmarama"; the Society claimed that such titles were designed to mislead the public.

Presentation standards

Proposing that the Council and branches of the Society should create and monitor minimum standards in the presentation of dispensed medicines, in order to establish a better public image of pharmacy, Mr A. I. Morland, Dewsbury, said pharmacists should not decry the standards of dispensing doctors until their own standards improved.

He recommended that the dispensing container should show no evidence of previous use. On labelling he felt the label should show Mr, Mrs, Master or Miss and at least one initial, the age if a child was under 12, whether the medicine was capsules or tablets and their number and the name of the prescriber. He felt chemists' negotiators had a "hard time" obtaining a proper container allowance when their opposite numbers had seen some of the examples of bad dispensing.

Mr J. Haigh, Dewsbury, seconding, thought that Council could be asked to instruct the inspector to look at the presentation of dispensed medicines and the branches could also look at the situation.

Mr L. Skalla, West Metropolitan, felt it was often difficult to get full information about use of the medicine from the doctor. Mr F. R. Bayford, Enfield, warned of the phenomenon of "patient labelling" where labels were altered, or steamed off and put on unsuitable containers. Summing up, Mr Haigh explained he had used the phrase "no previous use" so that it would allow for original pack dispensing. The motion was agreed.

Equivalent medicines

A proposal that the pharmacist should be entitled sometimes to dispense an equivalent medication to that prescribed was put forward by East Metropolitan Branch.

Mr H. Pears said that in certain circumstances, such as on a Saturday when a patient presented a prescription for a proprietary antibiotic which local pharmacists did not stock, the patient could be subjected to a great deal of harassment if the doctor could not be contacted to suggest a suitable alternative.

Pharmacists should be acknowledged as responsible enough to substitute an alternative generic preparation on such occasions, said Mr Pears, and he asked Council to put the matter to the Department of Health. The motion was carried.

Brighton Branch called for an end to vague instructions on medicine labels. Mr

C. Brower said "two tablets daily" may mean together or separately and "every four hours" left the patient wondering how many should be taken in 24 hours.

The motion, that the Society "should investigate the information available concerning additional instructions to the patient that would enable the maximum benefit to be obtained from medicines prescribed, and should make this information available to the members," was carried.

Northumbrian Branch suggested that all prescriptions for courses of treatment, other than those for Controlled Drugs, should give the dose and length of the course rather than the total quantity of drugs.

Mr H. Mackley said three factors were involved—safety, economy and a sense of responsibility towards medicines. Limiting the amount of drugs prescribed to a course of treatment would eliminate surplus medicines in the home and would be a considerable saving to the NHS particularly when it was estimated that about 40 per cent of prescribed medicines were wasted. The public might be persuaded to deal more responsibly with drugs if the prescriber seemed less casual about the amounts handed over.

Mr M. Stern, Manchester, believed that stating the length of treatment would not stop overprescribing. With analgesics, for example, prescribing "two every four hours for one month" would result in many more tablets being issued than at present when the doctor merely wrote "100." The motion was lost.

Patient registration

A call for patient registration with pharmacies was supported. Mr B. Keene, Liverpool, proposing the motion, said that pharmacy was often referred to as a "trading profession" and patient registration would put the emphasis on the professional side, with "customers" becoming "patients."

The responsibility for controlling repeat prescriptions would then be transferred to where it belonged—with the pharmacist rather than the doctor. In Holland, where such a scheme existed, the pharmacist received a registration fee as well as a professional fee.

Professor P. Spencer, Cardiff, said there would be many advantages to patients. Excess and inappropriate prescribing would be reduced, the scheme would help pharmacists entering rural areas and improve relationships with the public.

However, Mr R. Jackson, West Metropolitan, felt the idea was not practical at present and would only become realistic when all patient records were entered on a computer card which could be instantly retrieved. He said patients should not be restricted in their choice of pharmacy.

Other drawbacks were seen by Mr E. J. White, Croydon, who asked what would happen if a patient wanted medicines urgently and was not registered with the pharmacist on rota, and another member said patients would favour those pharmacies offering late opening services at the expense of those keeping usual hours. But Mr J. C. Somerville, Lanarks, said the profession must organise itself now to fulfil these obligations, rather than when it was too late. Mr Hurst, Hereford, agreed

saying it would be better to do it before the Department of Health decided to impose such a scheme at short notice, and Dr I. F. Jones, Halifax, proposed that Council make recommendations to the Department.

With so many organisations representing the different branches of the profession, the total picture was one of confusion, division and weakness, said Mr K. Martin. On behalf of Dudley Branch he proposed there should be a body within the Society with authority to control the profession as a whole and negotiate for all pharmacists. What was needed was a "single voice with a strong and forthright image." He suggested the formation of a British Pharmaceutical Association on the same basis as the British Medical Association.

But Mr P. Crees, Birmingham, felt the proposal would be a waste of Council's time because the different branches needed different organisations to protect their different interests.

Mr J. Bannerman said Council considered itself responsible for a branch of 30,000 members, regardless of how they were employed. A chartered body could not act as a trade union but could negotiate on the profession's behalf—all it needed was for the individual sections to authorise it. The motion was lost.

Doctor dispensing

Two pleas for an end to the rural dispensing problem once and for all were expressed. Mr S. G. Bubb, Bournemouth, described doctor dispensing as the "most serious threat facing the profession today" and called for the urgent extension of part-time pharmacies.

Mr P. Clarke said the Society should rescind its edict that a pharmacist could be employed in a subservient position as a dispensing assistant to a medical group. No doctor would similarly agree to take a subservient position in the pharmacist's dispensary and give medical advice when the surgery was closed.

Mr J. Kerr, chairman, Practice Committee, said it seemed illogical to deny the public the protection of a pharmacist by not allowing one to dispense part-time for a doctor. A pharmacist employed by a doctor would still maintain the highest professional standards and would probably even raise the standards of the doctor.

Sheffield Branch called for a rural practices subcommittee to be set up to deal specifically with the problem. The motion was carried, together with the previous one, that Council must continue to take effective action to end doctor dispensing.

Following amendment by Mr I. S. Swanson, Edinburgh, the meeting approved a Glasgow motion deploring the offer of bonus parcels of medicines for which there is evidence of misuse. Mr D. C. Mair said that calls from Council for pharmacists to remove these medicines from public view should have led to a phasing out of bonus offers on them. But there had been "a singular lack of support" from both the industry and some general practice pharmacists.

Mr E. Gamblin, Bath, proposed the Society should inquire into the promotion methods and restrictive practices of pharmaceutical manufacturers and wholesalers. He said wholesaling activities were

"shrouded in mystery" and alleged that chemists purchasing figures were sold for "a large monetary consideration." The Society should obtain the facts about the marketing of "ethical" drugs so that members could seek an improvement.

Mr L. Parsons, Southampton, said that having voted for a restrictive practice on advertising the meeting was now asked to oppose others' practices. The most beneficial restrictive practice in pharmacy was resale price maintenance—which had been won by the wholesaler and manufacturer organisations. Mr Parsons assured the meeting of the confidentiality of sales—analyses supplied by wholesalers did not identify individual businesses. Mr Gamblin replied he had proof his business could be identified. The motion was carried.

Other motions

Among the motions accepted were:

☐ That all medicinal products should be labelled with uncoded expiry dates by the manufacturers.

☐ That each dispensed medicine should carry a "not to be used after" date.

☐ That tighter controls should be applied to the prescribing of barbiturates (the original motion had also called for such drugs to be brought within the scope of the Controlled Drugs section of the Misuse of Drugs Act but an amendment deleted that part of the motion).

☐ That the Society should take all means at its disposal to ensure that the statutory requirements on the supply of scheduled medicines should be complied with, and in particular that the supply of such medicines from hospitals and clinics should always be under the personal supervision of a pharmacist.

☐ That within three to five years all labels of dispensed medicines should be typewritten.

☐ The Society should encourage the use of the words pharmacy and pharmacist instead of chemist shop and chemist.

☐ Use of the words "drug" or "drugs" should be restricted in any context not associated with pharmacy or on premises not registered under the Medicines Act.

☐ That the appropriate authorities be approached to try to persuade newspapers to give minimum reports of drug abuse.

☐ Schools of pharmacy should be persuaded to include a large amount of clinical medicine related to pharmacy in their courses.

☐ Schools of pharmacy should give urgent consideration to studies of the sociological and economic implications of pharmacy within the undergraduate degree curriculum.

Motions rejected included:

☐ That the Branch Representatives Meeting be held during the week of the British Pharmaceutical Conference.

☐ That a person deemed fit to practice pharmacy after passing a qualifying examination of the Society should be entitled to place letters to this effect after his name whether or not he is registered with the Society.

☐ That a public relations campaign should inform the public of the importance of the pharmacist to the community and the high standard of education required for entry to the profession.

Lack of time prevented discussion of nine other motions.

NI Society plans Golden Jubilee

The question of celebrating the Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland's Golden Jubilee was discussed at the Society's May Council meeting.

The president, Mrs C. B. A. Watson, said it would be difficult to find a suitable venue in which to hold a function such as was held to mark the Silver Jubilee. Miss M. J. Watson said the associates' section hoped to hold a dinner dance on October 23 but had experienced considerable difficulty in making an hotel booking. Functions managers were reluctant to give a firm booking for a dinner dance as much greater profits were to be made from discotheques. A suggestion was made that history of the Society's first fifty years should be written and published in booklet form. The secretary said an article on the Society's first twenty-five years had been published in *Chemist & Druggist* at the end of 1950.

Professor F. E. D'Arcy wondered if a day symposium could be held followed by a dinner in the evening. Members would be reluctant to travel very far in the late autumn when the days were short and there was a possibility of losing one's car on the way home. Mr G. E. McIlhagger thought proprietor pharmacists might be asked to make window displays of items of equipment not now in frequent use such as pill and cachet machines. This had been done on occasions for meetings of the British Pharmaceutical Conference and had aroused much interest. It was agreed to refer the matter to the General Purposes Committee and to give the Committee authority to add to its number by co-option. Professor D'Arcy and Mr W. T. Hunter indicated their willingness to serve on the committee.

Name restored

The application of Mr Francis Joseph Murray, 33 High Street, Chipping Sodbury, Bristol, to have his name restored to the register of pharmaceutical chemists was granted. A letter from the Department of Health and Social Services was read stating that the appointment of Dr Woodside, MSc, MPSNI, as examiner in forensic pharmacy for the year ending December 31, 1975, had been approved. Receipt was acknowledged on behalf of the Minister for Agriculture, of the Council's letter about a proposal that veterinary medicines should be made available from premises other than pharmacies.

The tutor-in-charge, medical receptionists courses, at the Rupert Stanley College of Further Education wrote thanking the Council for facilities given to the students to spend five mornings in pharmacies to gain some knowledge of the pharmacist's

work. The students had also been shown over the health centre at Craigavon and given a talk by Mr J. Speers about the problems encountered by the pharmacist.

A letter from the Department of Health about spermicidal contraceptives was considered and it was agreed that no comment was necessary. A paper on the introduction of the international system of units into medicine was also discussed. Professor D'Arcy said this would have little or no effect on the practice of pharmacy; pharmacists had for some time been using the new units. Receipt was reported of the Medicines (Dental Filling Substances) Order, 1975 (SI No. 533), the Medicines (Advertising of Medicinal Products) Regulations 1975 (SI No. 298), and the Medicines (Fees) Regulations 1975 (SI No. 366).

Reports from the Finance and Education Committee were adopted. Commenting on the latter, the secretary said a letter had already been sent to the Department of Health and Social Services suggesting that a training grant of £1,000 per annum should be given to a pharmacist who provided practical training for a student. Referring to the same report, Professor D'Arcy said a draft programme for

the 1975-1976 session of post-graduate lectures and courses had been drawn up. The programme included eight further lectures on the physiological basis of pharmacology. Week-end courses included one for doctors, pharmacists and nurses on "drug interaction", one on colostomy, ileostomy and surgical appliances and one on pharmacy management and business studies. Also included were a symposium on a suitable subject and a lecture on the Medicines Act and the reorganisation of the health services.

In reply to a question the president said she was extremely sorry that it had not been possible to arrange an "at home" at the beginning of the month. The repair work in the Society's house had commenced and it would not have been possible to use the lecture hall. Mr Gordon, who was to have given a talk, had not been able to offer a suitable date. It was hoped, however, to hold the meeting after holidays, probably in late September or early October.

Messrs H. H. Cowzer, JP, FPSNI, W. H. Boyd, FPSNI, G. E. McIlhagger, MPSNI, T. I. O'Rourke, MPSNI, and J. G. Stinson, MPSNI were re-appointed to the Society's Statutory Committee.

Company News

Beecham's profits helped by overseas growth

Profit, before tax, of Beecham Group Ltd for the year ended March 31 was £61.9m (against £55m in the previous year) from group sales of £436.4m (£338.4m). After tax group profit was £33.2m (£29.5m).

Overseas sales in the year under review increased by £75.7m and trading profit by £11.9m compared with the previous year. However, while UK sales increased by £22.3m the trading profit declined by £3.8m. Overseas operations, including UK exports, now account for 63.3 per cent of sales and 80.6 per cent of trading profit.

The royalty income, included in the group trading profit, amounted to £7.3m (£6.7m).

The dividend is raised from 4.714p to 5.11p net—the maximum permitted.

ICI profits drop

Pre-tax profit of Imperial Chemical Industries Ltd in the first quarter fell to £80m from £122m in the first quarter of 1974 despite higher sales of £748m (against £661m). Sales in UK increased from £273m to £314m. The directors point out that if adjustments were made for current inflation the pre-tax profit of £80m would be reduced by £50m.

PZ win control of Cussons

The board of Cussons Group Ltd have agreed to accept and recommend to shareholders the increased bid made by Paterson Zochonis & Co Ltd (last week p710). The offer remains open until June

6. PZ's chairman, Mr J. B. Zochonis, said: "Our aim is to expand Cussons, particularly on the export and the overseas side, first of all in the markets which we know best and then we shall look to see where the strengths and opportunities lie." Mr Simon Cussons is to join the PZ board.

Unichem's new chairman

Mr Michael Frith MPS, has been appointed chairman of Unichem following the retirement of Mr Tom Reid, who was in that office for 3½ years. Mr Frith, managing director of a family business of pharmacies and photographic shops in London, qualified from Chelsea School of Pharmacy in 1959. He became a director of the family business in 1962 and two years later he was elected to Unichem's organising committee. His wife, Mrs Patricia Frith, is also a pharmacist and runs her own business at Belmont, Surrey.

Fisons margins cut

Margins in the pharmaceutical sector of Fisons Ltd had been squeezed in the UK during the last year, said the chairman, Mr G. Burton, at the group's annual meeting last week. Mr Burton said he hoped the Government would adopt "a more objective attitude particularly because of the contribution made by pharmaceutical sales to the country's balance of payments."

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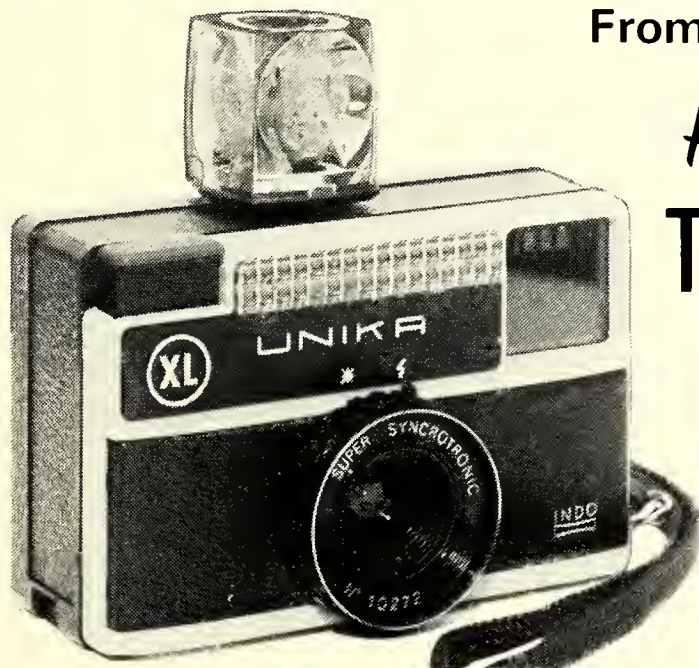
TOILETRY PRICES OPERATIVE FROM MAY 30, 1975

Toiletry prices EXCEPT those marked thus* will be increased as from May 30 1975 as shown in the following price list.

RETAIL PRICE LIST

PRODUCT	Prod Code No:	Rec'dmd/ Fixed Retail Price each inc. VAT	MBU Dozs.	Case Value per MBU	Rec'dmd/ Fixed Trade Price per doz. Ex. VAT	VAT Rate %	Case Rate Terms per doz. Ex. VAT	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
								1-60	61-85	86-125	126-200	201-400	401-1000	1001+
		£			£		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
TOILETRY PRODUCTS														
SEBBIX CREAM SHAMPOO														
*Sachets	9410	0.05	3	4	0.37	8%	0.36	0.35	0.34	0.34	0.34	0.34	0.33	0.32
Tubes	9420	0.22½	1	7	1.81	8%	1.74	1.72	1.68	1.67	1.65	1.65	1.63	1.58
SEBBIX LIQUID SHAMPOO														
*Sachets	9510	0.05	3	4	0.37	8%	0.36	0.35	0.34	0.34	0.34	0.34	0.33	0.32
Bottles 67cc	9520	0.22	1	7	1.75	8%	1.68	1.66	1.63	1.61	1.59	1.59	1.58	1.53
Bottles 135cc	9530	0.37	3/12	3	2.97	8%	2.85	2.82	2.76	2.73	2.70	2.70	2.67	2.60
VITAPOINTE CONDITIONER														
15g	8160	0.17½	1	6	1.41	8%	1.35	1.34	1.31	1.30	1.28	1.28	1.27	1.23
26g	8170	0.25½	1	8	2.04	8%	1.96	1.94	1.90	1.88	1.86	1.86	1.84	1.79
VITAPOINTE AFTER SHAMPOO CONDITIONER														
*Sachets	8190	0.05	3	4	0.36	8%	0.35	0.34	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.32	0.32
*Tubes 60cc	8200	0.28½	6/12	5	2.28	8%	2.19	2.17	2.12	2.10	2.07	2.07	2.05	2.00
VITAPOINTE MOISTURISING SHAMPOO														
*Sachets	8740	0.05	3	4	0.36	8%	0.35	0.34	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.32	0.32
Bottles 80cc	8750	0.26½	6/12	4	2.13	8%	2.04	2.02	1.98	1.96	1.94	1.94	1.92	1.86

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Company news

Continued from p738

Briefly

Reckitt & Colman Ltd: Mr Kenneth Clarke and Mr Richard Howard have retired from the board.

NCR Ltd have opened an office in Sittingbourne, East Kent (telephone: 0795 77421 and service, 0795 77175).

Welfare Foods (Stockport) Ltd. have moved to 63 London Road South, Poynton, Stockport, Ches SK12 1LA (telephone 09967-77387).

L'Oreal, Paris, report net profits of Frs 105.4m in 1974 against Frs 128.7m in 1973. Sales last year were up 17.7 per cent at Frs 3,200m.

Gold Cross Hospital Supplies Ltd have opened a new showroom at Emperor's Gate House, 3 Emperor's Gate, London SW7 4HH.

Napcolour Ltd's pre-tax profit for the first half of their year was £187,000 (against £191,000) on turnover slightly lower at £2.58m.

Chance & Hunt (now part of ICI Mond division), are moving on June 30 to PO Box 4, Rutland House, Runcorn, Ches WA7 2HH telephone: Runcorn 69333.

Odex Racasan Ltd raised their trading profit by 21 per cent to £720,103 in the year ended March 31. Sales were up 43.2 per cent at £6.26m. Recommended dividend is 3.5757p (£3.2681p).

A direct result of their showing at Euroshop this year (see *C&D*, April 12, p493), **Olney Brothers Ltd** have broken into the Dutch market with their modular equipment. An order has been completed for the refit of an Amsterdam drug store within 14 days. Two further orders from Holland are now being carried out.

Appointments

Cooper Laboratories International Inc: Mr R. V. Jurich has been elected vice-president of the company. Mr Jurich is currently managing director of four Cooper companies in the UK—Knox Laboratories Ltd, Shaws Veterinary Chemists Ltd, Smith, Miller and Patch (UK) Ltd and Forhans Ltd.

Pfizer Group Ltd: Mr N. J. Hunter, BSc, and Dr T. I. Wrigley, BSc, PhD, have been appointed directors. Other directors of Pfizer Group remaining in office are Mr F. Goulding, Mr C. M. Graham and Mr B. Tagert. Mr Hunter has also been appointed sales and marketing director of Pfizer Europe Chemicals following the appointment of Mr J. A. Veitch, MA, as operations vice-president, Pfizer Europe.

Mr H. J. Street, MInstM, a director of Vestric Ltd, has been appointed chairman of the National Association of Pharmaceutical Distributors from June 1. Mr Street has been involved in pharmaceutical distribution since 1946 and became a Director of Vestric when the company was formed in 1956. Prior to that he was managing director of J. R. Gibbs Ltd.

Market News

Chinese menthol firmer

China advanced quotations for menthol sharply during the week to £11.50 kg, cif, from £9.75. Holders of spot material raised their offers in sympathy to £11.90. Brazilian material however was easier at £9.25 spot and £8.75, cif. No direct shipments of Tinnevely senna were made to the UK in April from Tuticorin. One ton of leaves was consigned to the US, with 205 tons to Europe and 189 tons of pods. Pepper, black and white, was weaker during a week in which trading was restricted by the spring holiday.

Also lower among crude drugs were balsams, buchu, gentian root and styrax. Dearer were kola nuts, hydrastis and spot quillaia.

Sri Lanka has introduced a floorprice for citronella oil which has had the effect of pushing up prices by about £0.20 per kg in all positions. Cinnamon leaf oil however was down by £0.10 kg.

Phosphoric acid rates have been increased substantially with the result that associated items like phosphates are now dearer.

Pharmaceutical chemicals

Ammonium chloride: Pure £0.2131 kg for 50-kg powder.

Calcium sodium lactate: £0.90½ kg in 50-kg lots.

Ferrous gluconate: £1.395 metric ton delivered.

Ferrous phosphate: In kegs £553.80 metric ton.

Hypophosphorous acid: Pure 50% £2.51 kg in 50-kg lots. BPC 1959, 30% £1.9508.

Iron ammonium sulphate: 250-kg lots £0.27½ kg.

Magnesium dihydrogen phosphate: Pure £1.3674 kg in 50-kg lots.

Phosphoric acid: BP £0.4373 kg in 10-drum lots.

Potassium hydroxide: Pellets BP 1963 in 50-kg lots £1.13 kg; sticks £4.46; technical flakes £0.4015.

Potassium phosphate: BPC 1949 in 50-kg lots, granular £1.4562 kg; powder £1.2821.

Sodium acid phosphate: BP crystals £0.8359 kg for 50-kg.

Sodium carbonate: Anhydrous £142 metric ton.

Sodium sulphite: Crystals £0.1486 per kg in 50-kg lots.

Crude drugs

Benzoin: BP £63-£66.00 cwt; £58-£63.00, cif.

Buchu: Rounds £2.80 kg spot; £2.40, cif.

Ergot: Portuguese-Spanish £1.50 kg spot; £1.40, cif. East European £1.60 spot.

Gentian: Root £2.05 kg spot; £2.00 kg, cif.

Camphor: Natural powder, £5.50 kg spot; £4.00, cif; synthetic £0.70, cif.

Ipecacuanha: (kg) Costa Rica £350 spot; £320, cif. Matto Grosso spot nominal £5.30; £5.15, cif.

Colombian: £5.30; £5.15, cif.

Kola nuts: £1.80 metric ton; £1.70, cif.

Lanolin: 1,000-kg lots BP grades from £955; cosmetics £1,025; technical £903.

Lemon peel: £750 metric ton spot; £730, cif.

Liquorice root: Chinese £240 metric ton; £220, cif. Russian £250 nominal spot; £210, cif. (May-June). Block juice £1.50 kg. Spray-dried powder £1.45 kg spot.

Menthol: Brazilian £9.25 kg spot; £8.75, cif. Chinese £11.90; shipment £11.50, cif.

Pepper: (ton) Sarawak black £720 spot; £680, cif; white £940 duty paid; £855, cif.

Styrax: £2.40 kg spot; shipment £2.30, cif.

Essential oils

Camphor white: £1.20 kg spot; £0.80, cif.

Cedarwood: Chinese £0.95 kg spot; £0.95, cif.

Clove: Madagascar leaf £1.80 kg spot; £1.60, cif.

Geranium: (kg) Bourbon £20.00 spot.

Lemongrass: £3.20 kg spot; £3.00, cif.

Spearmint: Chinese £6.80 kg; American £10.00.

Thyme: Red 65/70% £9.00 kg.

Tough plans by Hathi panel for foreign drug firms

The Hathi Committee which has been looking at the pharmaceutical industry in India has unanimously recommended that the Indian Government should buy all foreign equity of foreign drug units that is in excess of 40 per cent so that they are "Indianised" immediately. It has suggested an excise on drug samples.

On take-over the majority view is that multinational units in the field of pharmaceuticals should be taken over by the Government and managed by a proposed national drug authority. If there is any technical difficulty in takeover a suitable legislative measure may be approved by Parliament. The Government, however, is understood to be finding it difficult to take a decision on this.

Some of the other important unanimous recommendations of the committee were:

□ Such of the companies as are manufacturing drugs in excess of the licensed capacity should be made to part with 50 per cent of the excess capacities in addition to the quota of 40 per cent of their authorised production.

□ Where foreign units are producing in India formulations by importing bulk drugs they should be warned that unless they undertake the manufacture from the basic stage, the bulk drugs concerned within three years they will not be permitted to continue marketing the formulations at the end of the three-year period.

□ Foreign units should not be licensed to manufacture household remedies. Such of those units as are already making home remedies should be allowed no expansion of capacity.

□ The public sector should be given the major role in production of capital and technology-intensive bulk drugs such as are needed in high tonnage quantities and where large-scale production would be economically preferable.

The committee has recommended that a return of post-tax 12-14 per cent on equity may be adopted as the basis for price fixation depending on the importance and complexity of the drug. The committee has suggested a ceiling on profits of 8-13 per cent on sales turnover by adding 2 per cent to 6-11 per cent to cover recent increases in the cost of inputs and bank rates.

Coming events

Tuesday, June 3

Cardiff Branch, National Pharmaceutical Union, The Park Hotel, Cardiff, at 8 pm. Annual meeting.

Wednesday, June 4

East-Kent Branch, National Pharmaceutical Union, The County Hotel, Canterbury, at 8 pm. Extraordinary annual meeting.

Thursday, June 5

Huddersfield Branch, Pharmaceutical Society, Stanhope Arms, Dunford Bridge, at 7.30 pm. Summer meeting.

Bournemouth & East Dorset Branch, National Pharmaceutical Union, Postgraduate centre, Poole Hospital, at 7.30 pm. Annual meeting.

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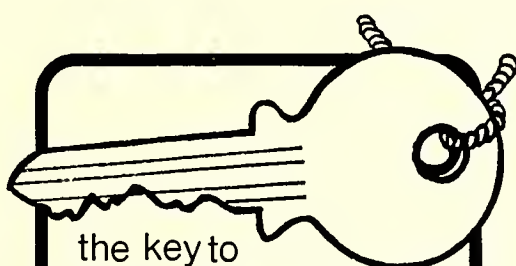
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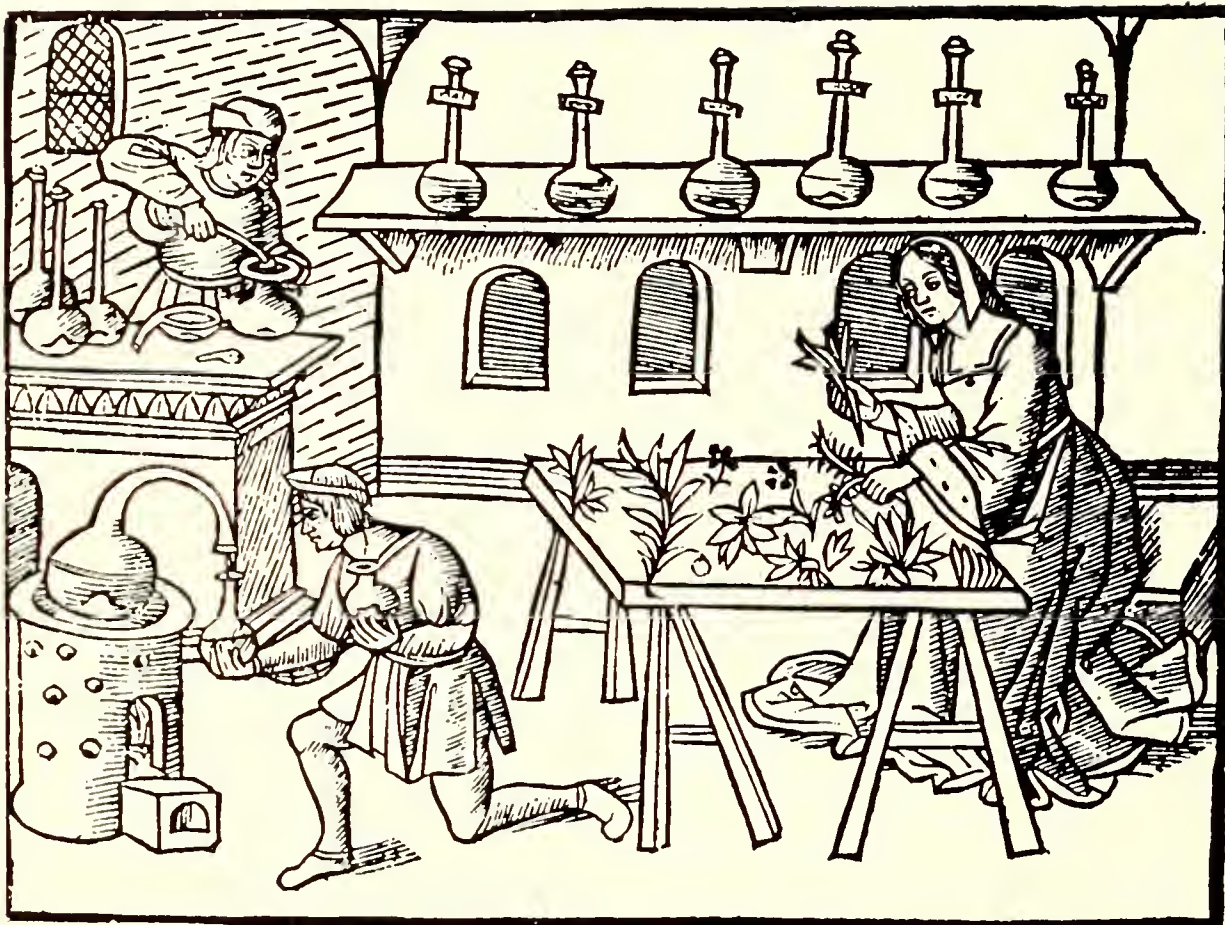
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